

ack.

My dear Mrs. Speer: -

My thoughts have gone out to you so many, many times during these past few weeks, although you do not know me, personally. I belong to that great group of Y.W.C.A. staff members, many of whom, like myself, have felt a nearness to you in your sorrow.

We know your  
great strength and  
its source and  
I am confident it  
will not fail you,  
now.

Sincerely yours,  
Thabel English  
N. J. S. 1922.

October 18, 1934

M. C. A.  
Piqua, Ohio.

Those of us who  
have been in the  
Y.P.O.C.A. long enough  
to have been in one  
of the Training School  
Classes to visit you  
in your home, and  
to have felt your  
personality as we  
worked together,  
even at a long  
distance, have  
a sense of knowing  
you that is very  
real.

Please accept our very deepest  
Sympathy. From Mrs. Spurr for you  
Mr. Spurr and all your family -  
Mathewine T. Edgar

Mr. and Mrs. William Stuart Edgar

Transvia  
Montrose  
Burr Co. Penn

ack.

127 East Seventieth Street



578  
WAVERLY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
E. BALTO. DIST., BALTO. CONFERENCE

MERRITT EARL, PASTOR  
640 E. 33RD STREET  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

October 3, 1934.

Dear Dr. Speer:

The Joint Session of the Preachers'  
Meetings of the Baltimore Conference was held  
in Frederick, Md., on last Monday.

At that meeting Dr. W. W. Davis moved,  
and it was ordered, that a letter of sympathy be  
sent you anent your recent bereavement in the  
death of your son.

Be assured, Dr. Speer, that you do have  
our warmest sympathy in this hour of your sorrow,  
and we sincerely pray that God may bless you with  
an unusual manifestation of His presence and com-  
fort.

Fraternally yours,

  
Secretary.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
156 Smith Avenue,  
New York City.

## CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

## SIGNS

DL = Day Letter  
NM = Night Message  
NL = Night Letter  
LC = Deferred Cable  
NLT = Cable Night Letter  
Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

## Received at

GR72 27=NEWYORK NY SEP 16 248P

MRS ROBERT E SPEER=

## MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE DAY LETTER

=METHERMON PREPARATORY SCHOOL EASTNORTHFIELD MASS=

=DEEPEST SYMPATHY MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU MAY  
THEY HELP YOU IN YOUR HOUR OF SORROW AS YOU HAVE HELPED ME  
IN MINE ALL LOVE=

FLORA M ERIKSSON.

327P

*Note position  
of faster sign.*

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**Received at**

GR139 12 3 EXTRA=SWARTHMORE PENN VIA ENGLEWOOD NJ SEP 15

DR ROBERT E SPEER=

METHERMON SCHOOL NORTHFIELD MASS=

MRS ELLIS AND I SEND DEEPEST SORROW AND SYMPATHY=

WILLIAM T ELLIS.

520P

## CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

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Received at

GR137 8 XC=ENGLEWOOD NJ SEP 15 440P

MRS ROBERT E SPEER=

M THERMON SCHOO =NORTHFIELD MASS

=OUR HEARTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU ALL:

=AMY ELMORE.

ack.  
ack.  
ack 15.

.507P

## MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

211  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
AMBLER, PA.

JOSEPH M. EWING, PASTOR  
348 LINDENWOLD AVENUE

Sept. 18, 1934

Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Spear,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York City

Dear Friends:

Believe in the  
sincerity of my personal feeling of  
great sorrow and sympathy to you  
in the sudden falling on sleep of Elliott.  
You, as the leader of leaders of our  
great Church, are very near to the  
hearts of countless numbers of people  
today, even as never before. May He, whose  
mind you have been seeking always to share  
with the world, be your stay and comfort on  
the shadowed way.

Having known Elliott at  
Princeton I know what our Church and  
generation has lost in his going.

Yours very sincerely,

Joseph Margaret Ewing



JOE GARNER ESTILL  
LAKEVILLE, CONNECTICUT

Sept. 25, 1934.

My very dear friends:

Just a little less than  
two years ago our second son (Wallace),  
just two years older than Elliott, was  
taken from us just as suddenly. So our  
hearts have mourned and sympathized  
with you more understandingly than ours.  
Knowing that with the innumerable friends  
of your family's you would be utterly over-  
whelmed with expressions of sympathy, I have  
refrained. But we do want you to know how  
deeply we feel with and for you.

Be sure you are familiar with this

JOE GARNER ESTILL  
LAKEVILLE, CONNECTICUT

little poem. I found some copies of  
it in Langford gave so much comfort,  
I had some copies of it printed.

With tender and affectionate sympathy  
to you and all of Elliott's dear ones,  
J. G. Estill.

Sept. 21.

This is just a big word, dearest-  
Lester, because I must send it - to  
day has many are sharing your  
sorrow, are stunned at the knowledge  
that such things can happen. How  
little we Christians really understand  
what it was that put Christ upon  
the Cross and how much of the  
same cruelty still exists in the  
world! And when it strikes people  
like the Speers and the Blossoms, we



begin to have a faint conception of  
the "powers of darkness" and the  
never-ending fight which must be  
waged against them. That God too  
suffers, who can doubt?

May the certainty of His presence  
sustain you all and give you  
physical as well as spiritual strength  
through these difficult and painful  
days!

With deep love - and fervent faith -  
and profound sympathy -

Mary Anne L. Emerson  
Please do not answer this.

ans.

BALTIMORE MAIL LINE



ON BOARD S.S.

Sunday  
September 30th, 1934.

Dearest Mrs. Spear: -

Ever since Bob and Patty told me, my love and thoughts have been constantly with you and Dr. Spear and you have always been with Ann, Bill, and me even in our Father's presence.

How my heart aches for love of you, for Bill and far-away "Marnie", and I dare to say in something of understanding sympathy for the wife and little ones,

It has been a sad, but a  
rare privilege to see dear  
Patty in her great sorrow,  
she is truly wonderful.

I do so long to be able  
to help in some little way,  
but realize only the dear  
Master can share your load  
and give you strength and  
light as you tread this  
dark, long road of sorrow.

Ann and Bill and I  
send love of you our truest  
love and be sure we are  
constantly thinking of you.

Yours devotedly,  
Susan Young Eagan.

adm.

Ridgfield, N.J.

Sept. 23, 1934.

My dear Mrs Spur

To you, Mr Spur and  
Elliott's family I extend  
my sincere sympathy  
in the sudden death  
of Elliott

What can I say that  
that would ease your  
sorrow

It is beyond our under-  
standing to understand

why those we love so  
dearly are so cruelly taken  
from us.

Trust in God for the  
strength and the courage  
to carry on. It is his love  
and wisdom that guides  
us through our joys and  
sorrows.

Ever faithfully yours  
Hannah A. Erickson.

ack!

My dear Mrs. Speer:

I have been  
wanting to write you  
all this week but it  
has been so impossible  
to tell you in words  
rich what affection  
and sympathy I am  
thinking of you and  
Dr. Speer these days.

Although I know that  
nothing I can say will  
be of any help, yet I do  
want you to know  
that I am very truly  
sharing your grief  
with you.

Affectionately yours,

Mabel Everett

809 Main Street  
Walpole, Massachusetts  
September 20, 1934



ack.

Sunday-



My dearest Emma & Rob.

There is nothing I can  
say to you. I am just holding  
you close in my heart. And  
praying for your comfort.

With true love and affection  
Ship.

Olga Ems.

100 E. Riverside Ave  
Englewood -



517

34 Hamilton Ave.  
Ossining, N. Y

My dear Dr. Speer:

Just to express our  
deepest sympathy to you  
in the tragic death of  
your son. May God  
help and comfort you

Very sincerely

Benj. H. Everett

017

Princeton

September 15. '34

Dear Robert

Our hearts  
go out to you in  
loving, prayerful  
sympathy.

We feel too  
overwhelmed to say  
more now. God  
grant you needed grace,

Affectionately yours

Edmund

Charlie

017 38 Maplewood Ave  
Maplewood N.J.  
Sept. 15 1934

My dear Doctor Speer  
Our hearts  
are full of grief today as we  
learn of the sudden and tragic  
death of your fine son  
at Northfield.

We assure you of our  
deep sympathy and of  
our prayers - you and your  
dear ones all.

It is in times like this  
the dear Father speaks  
"When thou passeth through the

waters I will be with thee,  
and through the rivers they shall  
not overflow thee."

You who have so frequently  
comforted others we trust will  
find His grace your comfort-  
er in this great sorrow.

Sincerely yours

John Edwards.

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Spear,

In the midst of  
the host of messages  
which are coming to  
you I must include  
my own. We all  
feel as if we must  
give expression however  
inadequately, 'to the  
heartfelt longing

to pour out our  
sympathy and  
prayer. The prayer  
service Saturday  
morning must surely  
have helped to  
bring courage and  
peace — it will never  
be forgotten by anyone  
who was there.

With affectionate thought,  
Futh Elliott

67

418 WEST STAFFORD STREET  
GERMANTOWN, PHILADELPHIA  
PENNSYLVANIA

Sept. 15

Dear Robert,

He are shocked beyond words  
by the information contained in today's paper.  
You are constantly in our thoughts and  
prayers. "God is faithful who will not suffer  
you to be tempted above that you are able  
to bear but will with the temptation make  
also the way of escape that you may be able  
to bear it."

Mrs. Erdman joins me in sincerest  
with you and your family in this sudden and  
mysterious sorrow -

Affectionately yours

Walter C. Erdman

To Dr. Robert E. Spear.

## THE CHURCH IN RADBURN

MINISTER'S STUDY

September 19<sup>th</sup> 1934

My dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer:-

Margaret and I have been deeply shocked by Elliot's death; and write to send on our sympathy. Your many friends will feel the weight of this blow which seems so mysterious and overwhelming; but we all trust that faith may temper the shock, and bring comfort.

We are sorry not to have known Elliot well; but have followed his work at Northfield with interest; and have been pleased at the way he was handling that important post. You can be very proud of his achievements.

Will you kindly convey our deepest sympathy also to Elliot's wife, and again accept much for yourselves.

Sincerely yours,

Deane Edwards

Radburn, New Jersey



ack. 9/25/34

PINECLIFF,  
ALEIH, LEBANON,  
SYRIA.

Sept 21/34

My dear Mrs. Tupper:

We have just read in the  
Paris "Herald" of the tragic  
death of your dear one. We  
are so shocked and stunned  
that it is difficult to express  
our concern for you all and our  
deep sympathy in this terrible  
loss, but I and I just

would you all know that -  
we have you very much in  
our hands and prayers these days  
hoping that we might do some  
real things for you!

Many days will have lapsed ere  
this reaches you, but we'll send  
you messages by the heavenly way  
and feel very, very near -  
to you now.

Very sincerely,

Malcolm Edman

57

1313 West Fifth St  
Cleveland Ohio  
9/15/34

Dear Dr. Speer -

Truly

my heart was profoundly  
touched by the sorrow  
than which you are  
passing and while words  
seem so inadequate I do  
want you to know that your  
burden is being shared by  
many who have loved you  
and Eliot and who will  
ever cherish his memory for  
the magnificent and constructive  
contribution he made to the  
lives of countless young people  
who will in that day rise up  
and call him blessed. Your  
strong faith that has richly

Edified many will in this  
hour of sore trial support  
you and Mrs Speer to bear  
up with Characteristic Courage.  
You are constantly remembered  
in my prayers and as you  
are and have been my ideal  
as a Christian Statesman for  
many years you can to some  
degree realize how deeply I feel  
for you. My first acquaintance  
dates back to my correspondence  
with you when we approved your  
choice of Dr Sam Higginbottom for  
India. Assuring you of my  
heartfelt sympathy, I am  
Sincerely Yours  
N. C. Elsworth

ask.

MRS. HUGER ELLIOTT  
114 EAST 90TH STREET  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Sept. 25. 1934

My dear dear Emma:—

We are just back from  
our vacation in the remote  
North Carolina Mountains  
where newspapers are slow  
in reaching us and are  
shocked and pained beyond  
words to learn on our return  
of just terrible tragedy.

No words can convey our  
sympathy—only assurances

it will be forwarded - I hope  
to tell you when it is possible  
and when you wish it.

Our dearest love to you all.

Elizabeth



of our love. I hope and I  
cannot forget - You - but  
our knowledge of your steadfast  
faith in the love of God  
and His comfort - I know  
that faith is bringing you  
comfort us. We feel so  
sure that you and Robert  
and your children are  
upheld by that faith.

I do not know where  
to send this - so address  
it - to Lakeville knowing

C.M.

MRS. SHERWOOD EDDY  
3983 GOSMAN AVENUE, 48TH ST.  
LONG ISLAND CITY, N. Y.

Sept. 27 '34.

My dear Mrs. Speer,

I know you will be receiving messages of sympathy from all parts of the world, & I want to add a note to tell you how much you have been in our thoughts & prayers since we learned of the sudden passing of your son.

Only this spring my husband visited Northfield, & when he came back he told me what fine work your boy was doing there. It is hard to understand just why he was taken, when he seemed to be so needed in the school, but you & I have long ago learnt that when we cannot understand God's dealings with us, we can still trust Him, & know there is a wise reason that some day we will know.



It seems strange to have one's children go ahead of oneself — all three of our's have done so. But it has taught me that Death, far from being a terrible & dreaded thing, is God's kind angel to lead us into the life that lies beyond our view. The life where we can develop more rapidly spiritually, & ~~yet~~ be able in some way to ~~be able to~~ help those we loved on earth even more than we could do with our bodily presence.

I do not know your son's wife, but I am sure she will rise to this great opportunity to show what true religion means at a time of crisis such as this. And you & Dr. Speer will be such a help to her & to the little children, who will find it difficult to realise what their loss means.

My husband is in China, or I know he would write to Dr. Speer.

Please do not on any account think of answering this letter.

With very real sympathy,  
Yours very sincerely,  
M. H. Eddy.

ackn.

New York City,  
September 30, 1934.

My dear Mrs. Speer,

This afternoon, when I  
tried to write to my  
niece in China, whose  
husband has just died,  
the American Consul called  
us, my thoughts turned  
to you again as they  
have so many times during

these weeks.

It is as if something  
of your strength of spirit  
and faith in all of life  
could somehow reach even  
to one in need of these  
in China.

With deep appreciation  
and gratitude, and sympathy,  
Very sincerely yours,

Leitham. Eckert,

Red 4054. Jan 4/95. Hans Eidsman.

Love and

Sympathy. -

Flora

ack. 4/95.

Sept. 23rd

ack'd  
SPH  
Dec 10

# DOLLAR STEAMSHIP LINES

ORIENT  
AND  
ROUND THE WORLD

ON BOARD  
S.S. PRESIDENT JOHNSON

Nov 9, 1934

My dear Mrs. Spear:

It seems incredible

that I should not have learned until a few days ago, of the terrible sorrow that has come into your life. In travelling about, there were days at a stretch when I had no news from the Occident, and somehow I did not get it word. Some Y.M.C.A. friends acquainted with your son referred to it - my first information.

Nothing that I can say will lessen your sorrow, but I just want you to know that I am thinking of you with loving sympathy and understanding. Only those of us who have lost - from this life - a precious one, can fully realize what it means.

But as Christians we trust  
of life Beyond.

I wonder how people



without that assurance can "Carry on"

In a few days I land at Suez for  
a two weeks' tour of Egypt and Palestine,  
and hope to be home in time for Christ-  
mas.

Yours with loving sympathy  
Miss J. Emery.

94 Walmley Blvd.  
Toronto.

Sep. 27, 34.

Dear Doctor Sperr,

I learned while in New York  
a day or two ago of the tragedy which  
has so sorely smitten your family. It  
is sad beyond telling.

I join with hosts of your friends throughout  
the world in deep sympathy to you and  
Mrs Sperr and each member of your family.

As is natural and inevitable,  
I am reminded afresh of all we owe to you  
in the service of the Kingdom for the Stammer,  
understanding, Christ-honouring leadership  
you have given us all through the years.

May His love be your comfort now.  
And may some deep word come from  
Him to your hearts bringing new strength  
and re-assurance.

Very sincerely yours.

James Rudwick.



118

# Ninth Presbyterian Church

Fifty-Seventh Street and Washington Avenue

Philadelphia, Pa.

September 18, 1934.

PASTOR

REV. WEAVER K. EUBANK, M.A., TH.M., D.D.

SECRETARY TO THE PASTOR

MISS REBEKAH TROXLER, A.B.

Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Speer,  
Englewood, N. J.

Dear Friends:

We want you to know that our prayers and sympathy and love have gone out to you in this hour of your great bereavement. Not only our nation, but the great world is shocked.

We pray and know that God's grace will sustain and keep you all the way.

Affectionately yours,



Weaver K. Eubank.


WKE:RT

Cheeloo University (Shantung)  
Fukien Christian University  
Ginling College  
Hangchow Christian College  
Hua Chung College

ASSOCIATED BOARDS  
FOR  
CHRISTIAN COLLEGES IN CHINA

Lingnan University  
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150 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

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JAMES ENDICOTT, *Vice-Pres.*

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FREDERICK OSBORN, *Vice-Pres.*  
ELLEN F. PENDLETON, *Vice-Pres.*  
E. M. MCBRIER, *Treasurer*

September 15, 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
Rockledge  
Lakeville, Conn.

Dear Doctor Speer:

This morning's paper gives us tragic news regarding Elliott.

You and Mrs. Speer have been working so harmoniously and beautifully these many years to nurture and bring to fruition your fine family, that it seems difficult to understand the entrance of the grim specter of death in such a manner.

You both have such abundant resources of spiritual power that neither Mrs. Evans nor I can say anything that would be of added comfort other than that we most deeply and sincerely sympathize with you in this hour of great sorrow. We wish we could be of greater help, but if there is any way in which we can be of service, do not hesitate to call upon us.

Most sympathetically yours,



CAE:RC

EDWARD A. FORD, MISSIONARY  
OF THE  
HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE OF NEW ORLEANS PRESBYTERY  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S.  
704 Goode Street, Thibodaux, La.  
Telephone 317.

THIBODAUX, LA.. September 24, 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer,

Dear Brother:-

Together with your many friends and a host of others throughout the country, we have been shocked and grieved at the dastardly crime of which your son was the victim.

I cannot profess to offer you any consolation other than that which you have already found in the Word and at the throne of grace, but I want to express the sympathy which Mrs. Ford and I feel for you, <sup>both</sup> and for the family so sorely bereaved.

Do not trouble to reply to this letter, but be assured that our prayers are joined with others, that you may all be comforted and blessed in these days of sorrow, resting on the everlasting arms of love.

Very sincerely yours,

Edward A. Ford.

58

1830 MIFFLIN STREET  
HUNTINGDON, PENNA.

Sept 12, 1934

078

Wly 7-16-34

Rev Robert E Speer family + relatives

We extend to you our deepest sympathy  
in this hour of bereavement  
may God comfort you

Timothy Euser + family



AS

Rev. James B. Ely  
R. No. 3, Bonmeade  
Coraopolis, Pa.

September 20th. 1934-

My Dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer-

Before entering upon another of the "Quiet Day" exercises I am sending you and Mrs. Speer this as a very brief and imperfect expression of heart felt sympathy from Mrs. Ely and myself in lieu of the hasty home-going of Elliott, your son.

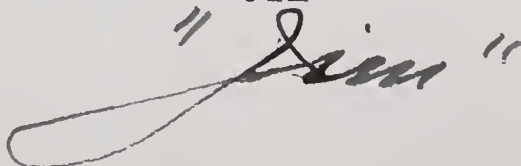
Never shall I forget the words of a true child of God who came and sat by my side on the R.R. train at the time my father was suddenly killed by an accident and fall in the barn.

"Nothing can ever come to a true christian in this world but will bring some good". As I shall think and pray for the broken homes and yet unregenerated in many nations of earth this day I will also remember you dear parents and the daughter in China that you may see what Hon. Mr. Jennings' Bryan said regarding death.

"Death is the narrow star-lit way between the temporal and eternal world". This sad experience will doubtless draw both the Eternal world and all the grace of God for time and Eternity still nearer to your bleeding and sorrowing hearts until you see your dear one again "face to face"

Lovingly

"Jim"



618

# LA MISION PRESBITERIANA EN MEXICO

CUAUHTEMOC 45  
COYOACAN, D. F.  
MEXICO

September 25, 1934.

OFICINA DEL SECRETARIO

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City, New York.

My dear Dr. Speer:

The Mexico Mission has heard of the great sorrow that has come to you and Mrs. Speer and we want to express to you our deepest sympathy. Truly our God has moved "in a mysterious way" in these circumstances. Though none of us had the privilege of knowing your son, we knew of his useful life and we grieve with you in the untimely close of his work of service. What happy memories you have of the years you were together and how precious they must be to you now! You are sustained and helped, we know, by the Comfort from on high. That you may feel the abiding presence of Christ more than ever before in your lives, in these difficult days, is our hope and prayer.

Sincerely yours,

Mary E. Ewing



143 Main St

Phenixville Pa

all

Sunday A.M.

Sept 16 - 1934.

Dear Dr. Speed, -

We read of the  
tragic death of your beloved  
son.

We are feeling deep  
sympathy for you,  
his mother, his wife  
and his children.

We are praying  
that you may be sus-  
tained throughout the

days to come.

Rev. 3: 12. Him that over-  
cometh will I make a pillar  
in the temple of my God,  
and he shall go no more  
out; and I will write upon  
him the name of my God,  
and the name of the City of  
my God, which is New-  
Jerusalem, which cometh down  
out of heaven from my God!  
And I will write upon him  
my new name

Mail to  
Miss Ruth O. Eakin  
330 E. North Ave.  
N.S. Pittsburgh  
Penna.

yours in tender sympathy  
Mrs. <sup>John A.</sup> Altha L. Eakin, - <sup>Barling from N.Y.</sup>  
<sup>Tr. Clifton</sup> Mrs. Belle E. Dodd, <sup>Pittsburgh, Pa.</sup> Route 7, Johnstown, Pa.  
Miss Leila M. Dodd " " " "  
Miss Ruth O. Eakin. Pittsburgh

CHARLES J. EWALD  
77 WEST WASHINGTON STREET  
CHICAGO

September 15th.

My dear Sister and Mrs. Speer.

Mrs. Ewald and I  
want to express our deep sympathy  
in your great grief. How  
impossible of understanding  
it is. May you sense in  
full measure the love of  
God whom you have so  
faithfully served these  
many years.

Affectionately  
Chas. Ewald

54

JAY HARRY FINK  
TUDOR HALL  
ENGLEWOOD  
NEW JERSEY

Sept. 21/34

Dear Friends,

You have been uppermost  
in our minds and in the minds  
of thousands. What shall we say?  
Please allow me to be personal - next  
month I will be 78<sup>yr</sup> of age - never be-  
fore in my life have troubles fallen  
on ~~our~~ our dear ones as within the  
last nine months - two nephews and  
a niece have been taken from us in  
a most distressing way.

So our sympathy for you and yours  
is keen. All we can say or think  
concerning your comfort is already  
in your minds & hearts - We look to  
the same Heavenly Father and the same  
Savior. The Scriptures meet every possible  
condition. I have said in another  
letter to your dear daughter-in-law -  
"If the wicked Crucify the Son of God - what  
will they not do." God does bless you  
and will always be with you.  
He will wipe away all tears here &  
We will soon be "where there is neither  
sorrow or crying". Let us always trust.  
Sincerely yours  
Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Fink and family.

2251 Lewis Ave., Pasadena Calif.  
Sept 20th, 1934.

Dr Robert E. Speer,  
Dear Robert;-

With much sorrow and with deepest sympathy we hear of the death of your beloved son.

How a man could be so vilely depraved as to take the life of a teacher like your son is beyond comprehension.

Mrs Fulton and I were severely shocked and cannot find words to express the depth of our sympathy for you and Mrs Speer in the great loss you have suffered .

When such a trial of our faith comes we use the words of the old Apostle "We see as through a glass darkly".

The prayers and sympathy of hundreds of your devoted friends will be offered for you, and in the knowledge of this fact your burden will be lightened.

Affectionately

A. A. Fulton

OT

Dear Dr. Spur:—

May and I want you to know how deep  
our sympathy is for you and your family in  
your great sorrow.

May our heavenly Father comfort and sustain  
you.

Sincerely

Marcus A. Follansbee

2831 Blackhawk Road  
Wilmette Illinois

September 19, 1934.



54

WILLIAM C. FINCK  
HAPPY HOMES

FACTORIES, STORES & INSURANCE  
218 BROAD STREET, ELIZABETH, N. J.  
OFFICE PHONE ELIZABETH 2-7108

September 19, 1954

Mr. Robert E. Spoor  
Presbyterian Bd. of Foreign Missions  
5th Avenue  
New York, New York

Friend Robert:

I was very much shocked to learn of the shooting of your son. I wish to assure you of my sincere sympathy. Although I do not keep in touch with you, I follow you in newspaper reports.

Very kindest remembrances,

*William C. Finck*

WCF:EL





CABLE "LIBERATE"

C. DARBY FULTON  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE — OF — FOREIGN MISSIONS

POST OFFICE BOX 330  
NASHVILLE, TENN.



113 SIXTEENTH AVE S.

September 27, 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Speer:-

At the meeting of our Executive Committee which was held here in Nashville on Tuesday, September 25, I was directed to write to you to express our love and sympathy in the deep sorrow that has befallen you and your family.

We have been deeply wounded by the heartless attack that took the life of your son. Our association with you through the years has been so intimate and tender that what gives you pain must inevitably hurt us too. And so we are sending you this brief message to say that we are sharing your sorrow with you, and our hearts are heavy as we think of the heartache that is yours at this time. We glory with you in the record, noble and unsoiled, that your son leaves behind and it is our earnest prayer that God may grant you His gracious comfort and peace during these dark hours.

With warm affection and esteem, I am

Sincerely,

CDF/b

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CROZER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF  
THE PRESIDENT

September 30, 1934.

My dear Robert:

Please let me  
assure you and your wife  
and your sons family of  
my deep personal sorrow  
at learning of the tragedy of  
Int. Harmon which has cast  
a heavy shadow over count-  
less hearts the world around.  
Many others are telling you  
of their tender love and  
sincere regard. Please  
let me join them. I too  
have been distressed and  
I am giving you and your  
family my affectionate thought.

At such an hour words  
are weak, but my heart  
beats in love for you and  
I remember with gratitude  
that you and your family  
learned long ago the  
source of comfort more  
than human.

Affectionately yours,

J. H. Franklin.

P.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
New York City.

FROM WILFRED W. FRY

THE AYER BUILDING  
WASHINGTON SQUARE  
PHILADELPHIA

September 25, 1934

Dear Doctor Speer:

Thank you for your twenty-third of September letter -- mine this morning.

I am venturing to advise the friends in Northfield that the probable date of the Trustee meeting will be November tenth and am asking them to clear the way for the memorial service on November eleventh. In any event, those dates appear to me to be desirable and as early as the engagements may well be prepared for.

Always with the provision that we are not asking too much of you, the hope grows in my heart that you will consent to do as we have asked. Those to whom I have mentioned the possibility of your speaking have given instant commendation. It is my thought that what is said and done should be reproduced in a simple brochure, which in turn might be sent to alumni and widely distributed among friends of Northfield. This makes me the more eager that the interpretation of Elliott's life then given be yours.

Thank you for the further word regarding Elliott's estate. I am, of course, deeply interested.

The enclosure which accompanied your letter was well characterized by you. It is one of several similar violations of taste and judgment received.

With affectionate regards to all,

Yours faithfully,

*Wilfred W. Fry,*

Doctor Robert E. Speer,  
Rockledge,  
Lakeville, Connecticut.



98

Chagrin Falls, Ohio.  
September 18, 1934.

Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Speer,  
Englewood,  
New Jersey.

Dear Friends,

The papers here yesterday carried the very sad news of the death of your dear son Elliott. You have our loving sympathy and earnest prayers, and we include his sisters as well as his bereaved wife and children.

What a strange deed it was, and how unnecessary! Aside from the deep sorrow it has brought to his family and friends, it has brought also to an untimely end a useful life, and made an empty place which will be hard to fill. It is one of the mysterious providences we cannot reason about, nor fully understand now. But we can still trust and not be afraid.

Jehovah bless thee and keep thee;  
Jehovah make his face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee; Jehovah lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

Mrs. Fulton joins in this very brief but heartfelt expression of our sympathy and love.

Sincerely your friend,

*George W. Fulton*

518

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

525 NORTH BROADWAY

WICHITA, KANSAS

REV. ASA J. FERRY, D. D.  
PASTORREV. LESLIE F. SWEETLAND  
ASSOCIATE PASTORSept 17<sup>th</sup> 1934

My Dear Dr. Speer:

At the morning Service of yesterday, the Congregation of the First Church of Wichita requested me to send to you and Mrs. Speer, Mrs. Elliot Speer and Family, our deep and heart-felt sympathy. We wish you to know that you are in our prayers during these days of terrible grief. We feel sure that there are thousands of men and women, in every land on Earth, who are uniting in fervent prayer that the dear God whom you love may comfort you in your time of grief.

With dearest personal affection and sympathy,

Very sincerely yours  
Asa J. Ferry

Ida, Oklahoma  
September 23, 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
Sec. of Board of Foreign Missions,  
Presbyterian Church  
156 Avenue, New York City.

Dear Dr. Speer:

Our Sunday School Class which is named after you has heard with sorrow of the death of your beloved son. This morning at our class meeting there were twenty three boys and the teacher who stood in silence as one of the boys and the teacher prayed for you in this hour of great trial and sorrow. We want you to know that we love you and are sympathizing with you.

Our class has now more than 20 boys in attendance.

Very sincerely

Jerry Tolson.

President of the Class.



518

~~First Presbyterian Church~~

~~Springfield Boulevard and 137th Avenue~~

~~Springfield Gardens, N. Y.~~

~~Elliot Field, D. D., Minister~~

~~Manse Telephone  
Laurelton 8-2767~~

~~The Manse  
134-35 Springfield Boulevard~~

1310 West 10th Street  
Wilmington, Del.

September 28, 1934

My dear Robert:

I have been immersed in packing and moving, hence it was not until I received a letter from my sister Katharine that I learned of the terrible happening. I do but join the throng of those whose hearts go out to you and to your dear wife, and my prayer is one with theirs--that our Heavenly Father, whose comfort and peace and beauty you have mediated to so many thousands, may enfold you both with His infinite tenderness. And I reach out to you a hand of loyal and loving friendship.

Ever affectionately

Ellen

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
24 Gramercy Park  
New York City

618

Fourth Presbyterian Church

181 North Pearl Street

Albany, New York

Sept. 30/1934

Dear Dr. Speer:

My impulse was to write you immediately after the tragedy; but I realized how flooded you would be with messages of sympathy.

Yet I must write to show how sincerely & deeply Mrs. Fitcher & I sorrow with you & Mrs. Speer and your son's family in this heartrending blow—so inexplicable, so needless, so cruel. But I know of no one more able to stand up & take such a blow than you—none with a firmer faith & more resolute courage. The Christian fortitude you have helped others to feel, and which you will impart to the younger ones of your near circle, will be your own sustenance too. Hard as such a blow is to feel, how far harder if one did not have the confidence

of a loving heavenly Father's sympathy  
and gracious purpose.

Faithfully yours,

Fredrick Fitcher

010  
WILLIAM CHALMERS COVERT, GENERAL SECRETARY

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420 WITHERSPOON BUILDING  
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Dear Dr. Speer:

Sept. 17, 1934

Yesterday, in the service at Ardmore, you were remembered  
by name in the pastoral prayer by Dr. Rawson. We were all  
glad to join with him. How our hearts go out to you and yours!  
God bless you, guide you, guard you always.

Yours always,

John T. Faris

20 389 Herrick Road, Riverside, Illinois  
Sept. 18 - 1934.

Dear friends, Dr. Speer & Mrs. Speer:  
Tidings of the tragic death of your son, Elliot, reached me yesterday (in Chicago Tribune). I am inspeakably shocked. Just a line to assure you and Mrs. Elliot Speer of my sympathy, and to commend you to the "father of mercies", and the God of all comfort, who comforteth us in all our tribulation."

Elliot is not dead, but, after a brief, busy and fruitful life, has slipped away to the "mansions" prepared, and, with Christ and His redeemed, is living more abundantly than ever.

"O death, where is thy sting?  
O grave, where is thy victory?  
Thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!"

Cordially Yours - Melvin Fraser



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THE GROSSE POINTE MEMORIAL CHURCH

REV. FRANK FITT, PASTOR  
16 LAKE SHORE ROAD  
GROSSE POINTE FARMS, MICHIGAN

September 18, 1954

My dear Dr. Spicer:-

The hearts of many will go out to you and Mr. Spicer in this deep sorrow, when so my heart goes out to you both; but all of us who have heard you and found strength in your witness will know, too, the Source of all that enables you to continue on the way, valiantly, hopefully and without dismay. May God bless, sustain and comfort you both and all the circle of loved ones.

Sincerely Yours,

Frank Fitt

628  
Central Bureau for Relief of the Evangelical Churches of Europe

Geneva, Switzerland

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2 RUE MONTCHOISY  
GENEVA

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OBSERVE REFORMATION DAY!

Sept. 15, 1934

Dear Dr. Speer:

Words mean nothing in the face of the  
loss you have suffered, but at least you  
will know that your friends are thinking  
of you and feeling with you at this time.

With utmost sympathy,

Antonia H. Froendt,  
(Secretary.)

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York.



618

September 15, 1934

My dear Mr. Speed:

My heart is greatly troubled over the tragedy that has come to you. You have friends who would willingly have borne this burden in your stead. They do the one thing that, by the workings of God's unassailable good Providence, they are permitted to do — they mourn with you, suffer with you, and pray God's added strength for you just now.

I send deepest sympathy to you all.

Very sincerely yours

Paul Patton Faris

Mr. Robert E. Speed.  
24 Gramercy Park  
New York City

618 Witherspoon Building  
Philadelphia

618

THOMAS J. FOSTER  
206 PROSPECT ST.  
RIDGEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

Dear Dr. Spiller:  
Mrs Foster and I want you to know  
that you are continually in our minds  
and hearts, and we think that we  
have an understanding sympathy.

Sincerely

T. J. Foster

Dr Robert E. Spiller  
24 Grammercy Park.  
New York City

Sep. 25<sup>th</sup> 1934.



Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,  
September 17 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York City.

Dear Dr. Speer:-

You and yours have many relatives and friends who will send you letters of condolence anent the "going onward" of your son, and their expressions will come to you with a heart-throbbing human sympathy that can only proceed from long-time, close acquaintanceship.

However, you are known so generally all over the world, and especially among Presbyterians, that such a bereavement, particularly in its suddenness attended by stark, wanton violence, takes on great magnitude. So, I feel impelled to send you these lines, without appending my name, for you will receive many letters to which your replies will be really essential.

While Paul says that God comforts us that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, yet I do not at the moment have anything occurring to me which seems adequate in counterfoil to such an awful, stunning catastrophe. All I can do is to quote again from Paul, "Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts."

And while everybody knows that you will strive to be more occupied with his present blessedness in heavenly glory than with your own sorrow and sense of loss, yet from your heart as now broken, there will go out to the multitude of the entire non-Christian world, unto whom you are a great instrument in sending the gospel to them, a new deep consciousness of the mighty contriteness of remedial sorrow that comes from 'looking' (having faith) in Christ crucified, being now raised to live forevermore.

When the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lindberg was kidnapped, I did not cease to pray for his finding until he was found (yet not as I had hoped); nor have I ceased to pray that the villainous perpetrators of that horrible crime still may be found and punished. And, similarly, without a vestige I hope of reprehensible vindictiveness, I trust that whatever one or ones slew your son may be apprehended and punished.

"There was a Star in time of old  
Which Peace and Joy on earth foretold;  
May that same Star shine from above  
On you with sympathy and love:  
And, from his deep and mystic power  
Bring solace in your saddened hour."

Lovingly,

A friend.

II Corinthians 1:4; II Thessalonians 2:16,17; Zechariah 12:10;

Psalm 7:16; Psalm 5:6; Isaiah 45:21b. "A just God and a Savior."  
(Numbers 24:17; Revelation 22:16).

043

2014 Fifth Ave. Oakland  
California 9/27/'34

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer:—

I was in  
Portland when the first  
report came of the tragedy  
in your home. It was  
so incomprehensibly

appalling that I said  
to our friends there—  
this is unbelievable.

Now all I can write,  
dear friends, is that  
my deepest sympathy  
and my prayers  
are following you  
all the days.

Very sincerely  
Julia Fraser

ack.

GREENWOOD  
ABERDEEN, R. F. D.  
MARYLAND

My dear Emma,

This sorrowful tragedy  
which has fallen so heavily  
on you brings grief to many  
of us who never know  
that. My sympathy for



you and Mr. Green, for the  
wife and three little daughters  
of whom you told me is  
beyond expression.

But I know that strength  
sufficient will be given you  
and that in comforting others  
you will be comforted.

With much love, believe me

yours affectionately,  
Eugene P. Finney

September 18<sup>th</sup>

Wm W<sup>m</sup> Finney

## CLASS OF SERVICE

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Ship Radiogram

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Received at 19 Dean Street, Englewood, N. J.

NAP 116 22=CHATTANOOGA TENN SEP 18 1027A

DR ROBERT E SPEER=

ENGLEWOOD NJ=

## MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

AS ONE WHOM HIS MOTHER COMFORTETH SO WILL I COMFORT THEE WE  
GRIEVE FOR YOU AND WITH YOU IN THIS SORE BEREAVEMENT=  
SECOND CHURCH BY BLAIR FINLEY.

114 1A.

57

17 Powell Lane,  
Upper Darby. Pa.  
Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> 1934.

Dear Dr. Speer,

You & your family have been  
much in my thoughts & prayers  
ever since the inexpressibly sad  
news reached us, from Mt. Hermon.

Words completely fail at such  
a time as this, but the grace &  
comfort from our Heavenly  
Father never fail, in our times  
of deepest sorrow.

To his young wife & children

Heaven will seem nearer & dearer,  
because their loved one is there.

"Underneath are the Overlasting  
Arms" however heavy the burden  
of sorrow may seem to be.

I know all my children would  
join with me in sending to you  
& yours, warmest-loving sympathy,  
were they only here.

Yours Affectionately,

A. I. Forman.

67  
720 Witherspoon Bldg., Phila.  
September 17, 1934

Robert E. Speer, D.D., LL.D.  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Speer:

Permit me to express to you and Mrs. Speer  
my deep and sincere sympathy in your great  
sorrow caused by the sudden death of your son.  
It is surely a sore bereavement.

May God's grace prove sufficient in this  
sad and distressing calamity.

Sincerely yours,

*Wm. P. Fulton*

57  
156 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK

Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> 1934

Dear Robert: The report in the  
"Times" this morning of the death  
of your son Elliott seems almost  
too sad to be true, but as it is  
corroborated with details in  
later editions, I can only ac-  
cept it as one more "puzzle of  
Providence" which cannot be  
solved by human wisdom.

You and Mrs. Speer, who have  
brought comfort to so many,  
will need all of that abundant  
supply promised by "the God of



all comfort," and no one  
will be more sure than your-  
selves to seek it chiefly there.

But so far as human sym-  
pathy may share in that  
comfort, you may rest  
assured that it is being poured  
out by a multitude, of which  
Mrs. Fenn and I form a part.

May great grace be given you  
and Elliott's family.

Affectionately yours,  
Catherine H. Fenn

87

24 HIBBEN ROAD  
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

Sept. 15.

My dear Friend:

The evening paper has just brought to us the sad news of the death of your son. It is almost impossible to believe that God has permitted this calamity to come to you and Mrs. Spear. And yet He changeth not, and He is the One who for so many

years has loaded you with  
benefits. We can, therefore,  
but bow and trust. He whom  
we call "Father" will yet show  
the meaning of what has  
taken place and, in doing  
so, will reveal both His  
wisdom and love. Meanwhile,  
be assured, you have our  
deep sympathy and fervent  
prayers. May the God of all  
grace sustain and comfort you.

With warm love in Christ,  
Yours faithfully,  
Harry B. Frost.

Please do not answer.

Sept. 21 1934.

512  
3119 ST. PAUL STREET

Balt.

My dear Dr. & Mrs. Speer:  
Mrs. Linney & I simply wish  
you to know that you have our heart-  
felt sympathy & prayers in your great  
loss. May you & all of yours, derive  
comfort & peace from the Source which  
you both know so well. God bless  
& keep you & the dear bereaved wife.

Sincerely Yours  
J. W. Linney.

WPK  
ack Oct 17

732 St. Marks Avenue,  
Brooklyn, New York,  
September 25, 1934

My dear Mrs. Speer,

Miss Abernethy  
and I want you and  
Dr. Speer to know that  
we sorrow with you in  
your grief.

Our little cottage  
has been blessed by  
the overflow of the

abundant life of your hill-top home and that has formed "a tie that binds," tho we are such new neighbors.

We know that you are being sustained, by the tenderest ministrations of divine Love.

Sincerely yours,  
Lorraine V. Ferguson



67

368 McDougall Street  
Brooklyn, New York  
September 23, 1934

Dear Rev. Spew,

Prayerful and loving  
thought for you fill our  
hearts and I know you are  
conscious of the Christian  
love and fellowship of  
all of us at the Board Meeting.

Words are inadequate but  
the clasp of the hand in  
genuine sympathy we can  
understand, and I want this  
note to mean just that.

Sincerely yours,  
Nathalie M. Farn

Dear Dr and Mrs Seer; I cannot refrain  
 from adding my word of sympathy in  
 this time of your great sorrow, - even though  
 you will not remember me at all.  
 I am Eliza Field's sister; - but it  
 was not my fate to meet her that  
 the privilege of meeting you, and we  
 have not met since then, - although  
 I of course, have had the pleasure of  
 hearing of you speak on various occasions  
 during these years, Dr Seer. - It was

us at the camp at Diamond Ford,  
O. H. wrote I met you; I was working  
part of the summer there with the  
Pocklows. One of my memories of that  
time is that Jean Cogburn and I  
liked to go in to read the stories of  
the children at school - Elliot  
(and Elliot - and Jean spelling  
I wrote - and family was not  
young!) was then a little boy of  
eight or ten, or one occasion  
told the story of Bartholomew and the  
lion; and Bartholomew, to my great  
embarrassment, asked me, instead of

one of the children, what noble words  
derive from the story. I hastily replied,  
"To be good to lions when you meet  
them!" - Well, I do not know whether  
I have carried out my life on this  
principle - but I have met a lot of  
lions, of course. I don't know what  
though these interfering birds both do  
and the other here which met consciously  
whatsoever. I was of disengagement, how  
needs, curiosity and need have led  
their way in life. And I know  
beyond your doubt for myself this  
new personal gift will be met - friendship

Thank it be. I do not need this  
little word of sympathy, thank; but  
I just did want to say much to say  
it. Please do not think a reply  
or acknowledgment is necessary, however.  
With deep and sincere sympathy and  
all my best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Edw. W. Field

September nineteenth.



57

BOX 54  
THETFORD  
VERMONT

Tuesday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>

Dear Dr. Spear:

Words fail me as I  
think of the terrible tragedy which has  
come to your family, but I want  
to send you a note of heartfelt  
sympathy at the sudden death  
of your son Elliott, who was  
doing such a fine piece of  
work at the Northfield Schools.  
Yours sincerely  
Charles W. Fowle



67

Wood-Korton Apt.,  
Wayne Ave., Phila.,

Dear Dr. Speer:

Sept. 20, 1934.

In Holy writ I read that  
Abraham wept; Jacob wept; Rachel  
wept; Moses wept; David wept;  
Prophets and Apostles wept; Mary  
wept; "Jesus wept"! This last  
brief verse never meant so much  
to me as when about thirty years  
ago I came upon a reference to it  
in a letter written to you by Henry  
Clay Ives, quoted in ~~in~~ his  
"Life", written by Philip E. Howard.  
There, as I recall, the grand old  
soldier is writing you affectionately  
on the first anniversary of his

if it could be passed on to others in like  
circumstances. So under this impulse I  
sought in my poor way to put the thought in a  
form which might reach the eye and interest  
of others. And now I venture to send you a  
copy of the little verselet, for I have always  
somehow associated you, if not with the orig-  
ination of the sentiment, yet as the channel  
thro' which it flowed forth, or was called forth.  
And through all the years since <sup>this</sup> little mes-  
sage has gone forth, near and far, to uncounted  
parishoners, friends, acquaintances, and others,  
with return messages of assurance that  
"it helped." And though you heard it first near  
thirty <sup>years</sup> ago from your grand old friend, yet you will  
take its comfort to you afresh in this sad time of  
your great need, I hope.

Mrs. Finney and I feel the utmost sympathy  
with Mrs. Speer and yourself, and pray that  
the God of all grace may grant you grace suffic-  
ient for your every need.

And our confidence is fixed that soon or late,  
in God's good time, when for you Heaven's morn  
shall break, and Earth's shadows flee away, you  
will come up once more with him whom you so  
dearly love, and have lost awhile. Until that  
day God bless you and yours with the assurance  
of everlasting life through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

In my closing word permit me to use the same form  
which you used in your lovely letter to me on my recovery some years ago:  
"Affectionately yours," *Wm. P. Finney.*

beloved wife's death; and he  
makes mention of the trials <sup>and</sup>  
sense of loss which he has expe-  
rienced during the year. But he  
goes on to say that he has taken  
great comfort in the thought that  
if the tender and loving Jesus could so  
enter into the grief and sorrow of Mary  
and Martha over the death of their  
brother Lazarus, when at the same  
time he knew that by his miraculous  
power he would soon restore him to  
them, surely he would <sup>not</sup> deal hardly with  
those who serve and love him now,  
but who can look to no immediate  
resurrecting power to restore their  
dear ones gone. This sentiment im-  
pressed me so deeply that I got immediate  
comfort for my own grief stricken heart,  
and thought what a blessing it would be

*Jesus Wept*

## *Jesus Wept*

*Beside the tomb of one He loved,  
The sympathizing Jesus wept,  
E'en though He knew at His command  
That tomb would give back him that slept.*

*So by the grave of one I love,  
Will my Lord chide if I should weep,  
Who have no power that grave to ope,  
And wake to life from death's long sleep?*

W. P. FINNEY

*Jesus Wept*



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Who have no power that grave to ope,  
And wake to life from death's long sleep?*

W. P. FINNEY

67

CHARLES HARVEY FAHS  
99 CLAREMONT AVENUE  
NEW YORK CITY

Sept. 28, 1934.

Dear Dr. Speer:-

I have purposely waited until the extraordinary rush of sympathy to-you-ward had abated just a little before sending my word. My instinct always is to slip quietly near and touch hands in silence when those more gifted in utterance have already found expression. However, scarcely an hour has passed since the dread news struck my eye when my thought has not turned to you and Mrs. Speer, and to the wife and little children.

As a newspaper reporter in other days, I saw much of the tragic in life and in my parents'

home and in my own I have passed through  
heart breaking hours. Just now I am helping  
to find a way to house the ashes of a niece  
(William Lyon's daughter) who died suddenly  
in the Atlantic while on her way to America  
to enter college. But now in my life has  
there seemed an episode so completely, utterly  
tragic as that at Mt. Hermon. The only comfort is  
that he who must was so worthy and that those who  
must bear the brunt of the shock are disciplined  
in the use of all the spiritual resources available  
to humanity.

It was good to hear from Dr. McAfee this week of  
the steadiness with which you are carrying on and of  
the high courage you are exhibiting.

Sincerely yours,

Charles H. Felt

## CLASS OF SERVICE

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# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

## SIGNS

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## Received at

GR75 40 DL XC=TAMWORTH NHAMP SEP 16 240 P

MR AND MRS ROBERT SPEER=

NORTHFIELD ACADEMY NORTHFIELD MASS=

=MY HEART ACHES FOR YOU ALL MY HUSBAND HAS JUST TELEPHONED  
THE SORROWFUL NEWS MAY GOD SUSTAIN YOU AND GIVE YOU  
COURAGE AND STRENGTH WARMEST AFFECTION FOR YOU AND DEEPEST  
SYMPATHY FOR YOU BOTH AND THE DEAR WIFE AND CHILDREN=

MARTHA FINLEY. 351P

## MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER
-----------	------------

*Just sent  
Oct. 11*

ack.

September 20.  
1834

KILMARNOCK  
TAMWORTH  
NEW HAMPSHIRE

My dear, dear friend -

You have hardly  
been out of my mind since  
the news of your great sorrow  
came to me. My heart

has ached for you, and  
I've been thinking constantly  
"How can she bear it -  
How could I bear such  
a thing?"

To our German under-  
standing it seems so  
tragic, so unnecessary.  
It's full, rich, beautiful

and useful life cut  
off in its full prime!

But I know you and  
your husband have  
faith and courage  
beyond the rest of us.  
You will try to think  
of the life beyond  
and its development  
there — and of the  
bravery of life here  
at best.

I know you must have  
been very proud of  
your fine son, and  
the splendid work  
he was doing. But



nothing of that can be  
lost. The letters of the  
boys he touched will  
show the impress of  
his character and  
his influence will live  
on -

I wish I could say  
something to help. I  
love you, and I can't  
bear to leave you so lost.  
I've never quite understood  
why it is true that "when  
the Lord loveth He chasteneth"  
but we all know it is  
very true, and you'll  
accept what has come

with courage, and believe  
always in the Father's love.  
You will try to bear  
your own sorrow in helping  
Dear Hally and the children  
and your husband -

God bless you all and  
make you to feel the  
"Everlasting Arms" which  
are beneath.

"God gives to love to keep  
it ever eternally, and your  
day has gone just behind  
the curtain which hides the  
life beyond for the moment.  
It need not be very long  
till I see you I hope. I'm going  
back next week. My sincere  
love and my deep sympathy  
for you - my dearest friend! <sup>My dear Mary</sup>

ack'd Oct. 17  
1834.



The Belmont  
~~West Warwick by-the-Sea, Mass.~~

Tudor Hotel.

304 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street.

N.Y.C. -

Oct 6 '34

Dear Mrs. Speer. I have just within  
a few days heard of the sorrow  
that has come to you - as I  
was very ill myself for just the  
time it happened, so never saw  
the papers. Scenic & I were  
at the Mountain View House,  
Whitefield N.H. for three weeks

little hotel for a week or so. before  
going to Florida as usual in Dec.

I haven't unpacked, so please  
excuse the paper.

I just couldn't  
wait to send you my love & tell  
you of my heartfelt sympathy with you all.

With love from us all,

Devotedly

Susan Frost

after the Belmont closed -  
we reached N.Y. only yesterday

I am terribly grieved for  
you & Dr. Speer & all  
of you. I met you soon  
at the swimming - left me,  
his lovely nat. born wife  
& admired them so much.

Please accept our deep  
love & sympathy. Sengier is  
back in N.Y. on her job as  
usual, in Room 1202. Steinway  
Hall, & I am here at the

211

Dear Ed. and Mrs. Speer:

I know you must have received hundreds of messages from Elliot's friends and admirers and I cannot say anything which has not been said before. I can only offer you and Mrs. Speer my deepest sympathies.

As you may remember, Elliot and I roomed together during our first year at Andover. I often think back on those days and recall some of the arguments in which we were frequently engaged. We were always good friends despite our differences in opinion. I saw a little of Elliot during our college years and then never



I have never met Elliott's wife. Will you  
please convey to her my deepest sympathy?

most Sincerely

Harvard B. Fone

Princeton, N. J.

September 21, 1934

again until we met at a School meeting on religion  
at Atlantic City two years ago. We had a fine  
talk then and our opinions seemed to have  
grown much closer together.

Last winter our school was in financial  
difficulties and when Albert heard about them, he  
immediately wrote me a very beautiful letter,  
I appreciated it very much for it made me feel  
that I still had a true friend in him and one  
to whom I could turn for wise counsel and  
genuine interest during the years to come. I  
shall miss him a great deal.

941

THE HILL,  
POTTSTOWN,  
PENNSYLVANIA.

My dear Dr. Speer,

For the past two weeks  
I have been trying to find time to  
write you a note of sympathy. The death  
of your son was a terrible shock to  
all of us, and I know how overcome  
you and Mrs. Speer must be. I hope  
some solution will be found. The  
beautiful tributes which have been  
paid Elliott only confirm the high  
esteem we have always had for him.

I trust that the love and understanding  
of your many warm friends has been, and  
will continue to be, a source of some  
comfort to you.

Very sincerely yours,

Herbert B. Trinegan.

October eighth.

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## Received at

GR122 9 XC=WOODSTOCK VT SEP 15 300P

MRS ROBERT E SPEER=

MOUNTHERMON MASS=

INEXPRESSIBLY SHOCKED EXPECT JOHN AND ME AT SERVICE

TOMORROW=

MARY.

312P.

## MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

*Letter sent  
Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>*



Dr. Robert E. Speer  
Secretary Board of Foreign Missions  
158 Fifth Avenue  
New York City.



FROM WILFRED W. FRY

THE AYER BUILDING  
WASHINGTON SQUARE  
PHILADELPHIA

September 20-1934.

Dear Robert:-

Your moving letter of September 18<sup>th</sup> is duly mine and will be henceforth a cherished possession.

I have said to many that the light which arised out of this darkness for me was the courage and hope and love with which all of you most sorely burdened exemplified the glory of our Christian faith.

I shall never forget the days with Holley, Mrs. Speer and you and the others

closest to Elliott.

It is good of you to say that I helped. It was a great joy to do the little one could do.

With affectionate regard to you all.

Faithfully yours,

Winifred W. Fry.

Ans  
55.

WILLIAM HIRAM FOULKES  
OLD FIRST CHURCH  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

Monday  
Sept 17-34

Dear Robert:- How our hearts go out to you  
and yours and how our prayers ascend!  
In the old Sanctuary where prayer has  
been offered for nearly 150 uninterupted  
years we remembered you in our intercession  
Sunday. Today the Board meeting  
was as you would have had it, calm,  
stidfast and diligent, but with a tender,  
all pervasive sympathy and solicitude.

I have repaired from writing earlier, but  
not because the matter has not been given

on my heart and mind, for really  
nothing else much has engaged us  
in conversation since Saturday morn-  
ing.

May you and the entire household  
have such abundant and abiding  
assurances of God's comforting presence  
and His gracious power and goodness  
that the days of the "little white" shall pass  
in confidence and peace, until He shall  
come bringing you beloved into Him!

We love you - we pray for you - we  
rejoice in you - we commend you to  
Christ - and our Father. With all my heart  
Yours - William

Ann  
Ans

My dear Rob:-

It is hard to cross  
the threshold of any one's sorrow.  
Sometimes words are a help and  
then again they are distressing.  
But I want you to know you and  
Emma are much on my heart  
these days and it is a comfort to  
know that we have the faith  
to believe that God's love is back  
of every thing that has happened.  
I wish I could be of some help  
to you: only can assure you -

My love to you and Emma  
and my sincerest sympathy.

Ever your affectionate y.

Anna Fisher.

Huntingdon. Pa.

Sept. 25, 1934.



Ans  
Ans.

WILLIAM UHLER FOLLANSBEE  
WOODLAND ROAD  
PITTSBURGH

September 16<sup>th</sup> 1934

Dear Brother Robert

All in our home were greatly saddened last evening as we read of the sudden tragic sorrow that had come to you and yours and from our hearts go out the thoughts so difficult to fully express.

I was privileged to meet Elliott only once but I had become accustomed to look for his periodical letters advising of the fine work in which he was so greatly interested.

As I look back two years over the dreary weeks and the continued recurrent question "why?" I send you all your most helpful sympathy.

As I now gaze at my dear Son's portrait, through my moist eyes I vision him with outstretched hands welcoming your beloved Son to the life hereafter.

May our dear Heavenly Father, and His Blood Son, sacrificed for us, and His Holy Spirit comfort you all in your great sorrow.

Ever Sincerely Will

ask. copy

Madison Ave.

October 3rd

ONE LEXINGTON AVENUE  
NEW YORK CITY

Dear, dear Emma

Dr. McArthur told  
me on Sunday that you and  
Dr. Speer were not to be back  
till next week. I'm glad you  
are staying in in the beautiful  
country. "Soel made the

Country" and was made  
the town. This always seems  
so true when we come back  
from the quiet and beauty  
and peace of such a  
place a yours over ours  
to these noisy city streets.

I've just come home  
from all day Beard  
meeting. I'm sure you

you have remembered us,  
and you will never doubt  
that we have all thought  
of you. Mrs. Paist was late  
for the opening of the business  
meeting which preceded the  
joint meeting of Board and  
Staff in the assembly room,  
and before we went to  
that joint meeting, she  
spoke of you and asked  
that we all join in  
silent prayer for you.

I talked with Clara Reed  
about you and she told  
me how wonderful you  
were, as I knew you  
would be. A number  
of people, her mother, Mrs.

Brown of New Haven, <sup>Mrs. Hales,</sup> Mrs.  
Mulland, Mrs. Dickinson and  
several others asked me  
if I had any special news  
for you. Everyone has you  
in her heart.

Rhoda led the service  
at the end of the afternoon  
meeting. How I wish for  
Cecilia to be here! Her  
experience at Geneva  
was something very wonderful  
for her. I know she has  
such a vision of our  
world movement as she  
has never had before, and  
of what it means for each  
of us "to be a pilgrim"  
as we were in opening.

I haven't written you often as  
I would have liked to,  
for I'm sure you love more  
letters, with your list of friends  
late yours and your husband's,  
that you can read. When  
you come back I hope you'll  
let me see you, and if  
there is anything great  
or small I can do for

you, I shall consider  
it the greatest privilege.

I know the love of God  
surrounds you and  
His Presence sustains  
you, and many, many  
loving friends keep you  
in constant thought - one  
of them is your affectionate  
friend and helper, Harriet T. May

ack.

ENGLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

Dear Emma - All I  
can say to you is that  
you are constantly in  
the thoughts of every  
one of your devoted friends.



We sorrow with you.

and stand speechless  
and aghast at the  
utter inexplicableness  
of it all.

I remember Eliot so well,  
when I lived on Chestnut  
Street, and you on Walnut.  
He was always a special  
favorite of mine - and  
I have followed his splendid  
progress with great interest.  
It is something to glory  
in to have brought forth

such a boy, isn't it?

He must be needed for  
a great work in some  
other world. That is all  
we can say.

My love to you, dear Emma,  
and deepest sympathy

Ever Truly  
Your  
Foot

9.18.34

Hawleywood, N. J.

Dear Mr. Speer:

Several weeks have passed since the tragic death of your son and I have wished many times that I could tell you of the deep sympathy my husband and I have felt for you and Mrs. Speer.

The remembrance of much help and inspiration gained from the reading of a number of your fine

office.

With very kind wishes,  
I am,

Yours sincerely  
(Mrs. O. C.) Jessie M. Fausso

November third

books leads me to say  
that your wonderful  
faith and trust in the  
abiding love of God will,  
without doubt, carry you  
through these days of your  
very, very deep sorrow.

Our hearts have been  
deeply touched and we  
desire to express our  
profound sympathy to  
you and your family  
and to your son's wife  
and children.

You may not remember  
me by my married  
name, but will recall  
"Miss Mickens" who  
used to be in Mr. Carter's

Q. 12.

Sunday. Sept. 23, 1934

My dear Mrs. Speer,

Through these difficult days of perplexity and bereavement, I have been full of sorrow for you and have wished I might help in some way. Your whole wide circle of friends shocked by so cruel an act, can only hope the great principles you so up held, can in Gods mysterious ways be forwarded in some



special way through this  
great sacrifice.

I wish I might in  
some measure at this  
time do something for  
you, as you have in  
storm days for me.

With sincere deep  
concern and love,

Eusebius Friedman



2/21/

Dear Mrs. Spear.

You are  
receiving so many letters  
that one hesitates to write  
fearing it may add to your  
burden but there are so  
many here living in the  
Residence, Miss Gilchrist.  
The people at the desk and  
writing board and other

in the world seems so much more  
terrible when its expression comes  
so close and to a whole family so  
imbued with the love of Christ.

Because of your own deep experience  
of God you will be able to face this  
tragedy with strength and faith but -  
I want you to know that many whom  
you hardly know are thinking of you  
and feeling with you at this time -  
yours with our prayer and greatest sympathy,  
Sept. 16. Lena M. Farrar.

members of the building  
staff who are expressing  
their deep sympathy that I  
want you to know how wide  
your circle of friends is  
when a deep sorrow comes  
to you. You would be  
touched to know how deeply  
George McKee our night-  
watchman expressed his  
real interest-

You are so much in my  
thought. The spirit of hate

607.

Dear Robert:-

I know with absolute certainty that you are drinking the whole of the cup that has been given you, and that you are manifesting Christ's spirit in this terribly deep trial. You have no need of words from me; but do know, Robert, that I am pressing your hand in deepest sympathy. I am thinking in thankfulness over Elliott's splendid life, and in intercession for the

dear one's left behind.

May

God, in His unsearchable way,

sustain you all.

Lovingly,

Dan

D. Fleming

Sept 17, 1934.



337 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.  
NY City

Dear Mr Speer

I received the  
book which you so kindly sent  
me - Thanks for it and  
for your remembrance of me  
" . . . . . "

There are some situations  
in which words, words, words  
are of no avail and I cannot  
express the horror I feel nor  
the deep sympathy I hold  
for you and your dear partner  
in the great trial.

Sincerely

J. A. Fenton

Grace & C Fox

But Palm Beach



52

Dear Dr. J. M. Speer:

When we arrived from  
central New York at the  
home of our daughter in  
Germananton, the middle  
of September her first husband,  
as he greeted us, was  
of the tragedy that had  
come to her - in a  
change - may it affect  
her, for while I had never

not-need it. Mr. Thompson - what  
great - home coming day is near -  
and Mr. Fox and I want to send  
our deepest sympathy. The aunt of a  
Roxfield Penman girl is the new hostess  
at Lake Court and she has said "Everyone  
love Mother". The same word comes  
from Lafayette College - so the trail  
of light that beacons will have been  
put in the lives of the students who so needed

met Mr. Speer, from the  
time he was for I  
had known much of  
him. Mrs. Ellen Dickey  
used to write his little  
boy saying to be when  
lived in Japan and  
Rome of Rome I still use  
in my little devotional  
talks.

I wrote her at one time  
the letter seemed to hit  
in the face of such  
a sorrow that I did,



His coming leaden up.

We should be so glad to have you  
come to Lake Court for a little  
next this winter and shall be glad  
to share our car with you and  
Mrs. Mudge are coming after the  
New Year -

Cordially yours,

Grace Curtis Hunt Fol

Wrote to the Wrights -

519

REV. GEORGE CANFIELD FROST  
1420 1514 GENESEE STREET  
UTICA, N. Y.

Dr Robert E. Speer  
156 Fifth Ave  
New York City

My dear Dr Speer.

I am writing in the  
behalf of Utica Presbytery to  
extend to you & Mrs. Speer the  
deepest sympathy in your mys-  
terious and awful affliction.

I can say nothing to answer  
the many questions that well  
up from your hearts, nor to assuage  
your grief. I am sure however  
that underneath you are the  
Everlasting Arms. And that  
there is light even in the dark.



valley through which you are passing.  
Be assured however that as  
a body our hearts go out to  
you both.

Very sincerely

George C. Frost

Stated Clerk

The Utica Presbytery

Sept 27 1934

ansd

Mr. G. B. L.  
Hudson

FROM WILFRED W. FRY

THE AYER BUILDING  
WASHINGTON SQUARE  
PHILADELPHIA

Dear Doctor Speer:

We shall eagerly await word from you regarding the proposed memorial occasion at Mount Hermon. I greatly hope you will feel that you can render this service to us all.

May I suggest as possible dates either October twenty-first or twenty-eighth, or November fourth or eleventh? If any of these prove agreeable to you it would be my thought that we call the Trustee Meeting for the Saturday before, with the expectation that the members of the Board would remain for the memorial service.

Please tell Holly that I have been successful regarding the twelve pictures and will shortly forward them to her at Mount Hermon.

With ever warm regard,

Sincerely yours,

*Wilfred W. Fry.*

Doctor Robert E. Speer,  
"Rockledge",  
Lakeville, Connecticut.

September 20, 1934.

*Ans*

*Ad 5*

FROM WILFRED W. FRY

THE AYER BUILDING  
WASHINGTON SQUARE  
PHILADELPHIA

Dear Robert Speer:

Many thanks for your letter of  
September twenty-ninth, with enclosure.

In due course these matters will  
all be covered in proper manner though I am merely  
acknowledging and filing such suggestions as come  
this way at the present time.

With affectionate regards to the  
family,

Ever yours,

*Wilfred*

Doctor Robert E. Speer,  
"Rockledge",  
Lakeville, Connecticut.

October 4, 1934.

P.S. Please let me know when you may again be  
reached at your New York office.

Ans.  
Q 10

39 GRANDVIEW AVENUE  
PLEASANTVILLE  
NEW YORK

Oct. 4, 1934

Dear Dr. Speer -

I have hesitated to write you about the loss of your beloved son, but as one who only three years ago had a similar experience, I must at least express the fellowship in suffering which I feel. I never knew Elliott but heard often of his splendid qualities, and his growth in capacity and charm. Confidence that such spirits come time to grow as well as to live is certainly one of our most precious sources of comfort. You and Mrs. Speer have always been reservoirs of courage and radiant faith to multitudes of us, and this sore loss will, if possible, enlarge your power to help. The way of the Cross is verily lined at times with thorns, but

if walked in close companionship with  
the Master, they do indeed change  
into flowers.

Please don't trouble to acknow-  
ledge this when so many other  
things demand your time.

Affectionately, your younger brother

Galen M. Fisher

678

WOMEN'S SOCIETY  
HUGUENOT MEMORIAL CHURCH  
PELHAM MANOR, NEW YORK

Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Speer.  
Dear Friends,

The Women's Society of  
the Huguenot Memorial  
Church wishes to extend their  
deep sympathy upon the loss  
of your dear son. May God  
sustain you both and give  
his comfort and strength to  
your son's wife and family.

Sincerely yours  
L. Norothea Flynn.  
Corres. Secretary.

Oct. 2nd, 1934.



59

Mr. Bertrand Littell Gulick.junior

Sincere sympathy

Mrs. Bertrand Littell Gulick, junior

Kingston Road  
Princeton, New Jersey

tact with his buoyant and unconquerable spirit."

We can only say God comfort and support the bereaved,—the three little girls and their mother and the other nearer relatives.

#### **Dr. J. Stuart Holden**

Although we were aware that for some years Dr. Stuart Holden's health had given cause for anxiety, it was none the less of a shock to hear of his death on August 10, especially when he had so recently been in this country occupying the pulpit of the Fifth Avenue Church for a month in the spring.

For twenty-five years Stuart Holden had crossed the Atlantic almost every Summer to participate in the Northfield Conference. He was a trustee of Keswick Convention and for twenty-seven years a director of the China Inland Mission, being vicar of St. Paul's, Portman Square, London, for a like period. His teaching was unswervingly evangelical, and his ministry strenuous and unremitting. A family friend of the writer's of many years, a great teacher and a great pastor, he leaves vacant a place in the life of the Church that no one is likely to fill as he did.

#### **Dr. Robert Laws**

Another death among outstanding men during the summer was that of Dr. Laws the great African missionary. Dr. Laws, however, had filled his span, being 83 years old.

In 1875 he went to Africa to establish the Livingstonia Mission. His educational, no less than his medical missionary activities were unending and stupendous. It is said that no fewer than 800 schools and a dozen hospitals in that once dark and tortured land testify to his devoted and enlightened labors.

#### **Dalmeny Church**

It is not without a two-fold interest to learn that the Pilgrim Trust, the fund so generously established by Mr. Harkness, has made a grant of £250 (say \$1250) towards the restoration of the 800-year-old Norman church at Dalmeny, in which this church has shown an interest.

The restoration of Dalmeny church began in 1927 with the rehabilitation of the apse, choir, and nave of the church, and work is at present proceeding with the rebuilding of the tower, which fell about 1480. It is hoped that the work of restoration will be completed by the end of October.

#### **Return of Martin Hardin**

The Rev. Martin D. Hardin, Jr., for two years the student assistant, and for three years the minister of the First Presbyterian Church, Trumansburg, N. Y., has been appointed Assistant Minister, commencing his public duties on September 9 when he preached at the morning service of worship.

He brings with him his young wife who has been welcomed among us, and we know that both Mr. and Mrs. Hardin are assured of the hearty cooperation and support of the congregation.

#### **The Rev. David O. Kendall**

The news of Mr. Kendall's call to the pastorate of the Union Evangelical Church, Corona, N. Y., reached us just too late to receive mention in our last issue.

Mr. Kendall succeeds the late Dr. Milton S. Littlefield, a former president of the Hymn Society and an authority on hymnology. Dr. Littlefield was to have become pastor emeritus but died in May.

David Kendall was with us first as student assistant and latterly as Assistant Minister and gained the affection and regard of those who knew him.

Mr. Kendall's installation took place on Sunday, September 30, when a crowded church welcomed their new minister.

Dr. Henry Sloane Coffin, president of Union Seminary preached the sermon, Dr. Moldenhawer gave the Charge to the Pastor and Mr. Phillips Elliott of Brooklyn gave the Charge to the People. Four local ministers were also on the platform and took part in the service.

We believe David Kendall has behind him a loyal and enthusiastic group of people and we wish for him all success in his new work.

#### **Church House Hobbies**

The variety of activities carried on under this general name are under the supervision of expert teachers and leaders and offer unusual opportunities for friendship, self-expression, and serious study. For three years, they have formed an integral part of our church life; and this year, with additional improvements in the building and a fuller program of activities, they promise to be more enjoyable and profitable than ever. Some of the Church House Hobbies are presented on another page.

## Jesus' Promise to Faith

A Sermon

By the REV. ADAM W. BURNET

*Have faith in God—Mark 11:23*

**L.** P. JACKS in his "Challenge of Life," published some years ago, will have it that there are far too many people in our day who detest hardship of any kind and whose one aim is comfort at any price. "The idea," he says, "that we have a right to an easy existence, that life ought not to be difficult; that so far as it is difficult we suffer wrong and have a grievance; that the path of progress, therefore, lies in the direction of making things easy all round—this idea lies deeply embedded in the thought of our time. It has become so involved in our outlook on life that we hardly notice its presence and are unconscious of the extent to which it dominates our minds."

If this be true—and there seems more than a modicum of truth in it—it may be worth pointing out what was not in our Lord's mind when He uttered these words. The more tainted we are with the desire for an easy time, the more tempted we are to imagine that His main interest here is the elimination of difficulty from human life, to have any and every mountain of trouble heaved out of man's path that he may pursue an even and unharassed tenor of his way. But no one could think that who sees the significance of difficulty in the life of Jesus or of anybody else. A very great part of this education He won from conflict with the things that opposed and defied Him, and human life, if it is not fatally to lose and degenerate, needs the discipline of struggle and hardship. And we are so made as to give the best account of ourselves when we're undergoing that discipline. There is undoubtedly a side in man, developing in all of us if we are not careful, that wants comfort and safety and peace of the baser sort, that selects from Christianity a soothing syrup and leaves out its iron tonic. But there is also another side that is not content with mere self-accommodation. It may be only *some* men, as Emerson says, who "rise refreshed on hearing a threat, and to whom a crisis comes graceful and beloved as a bride," but in everybody there is a quality that feels shame at the thought of being always pampered and considered and coddled. There is surely something in all of us that vibrates to the choice of old Caleb long ago, when a mountain citadel blocked his people on the march, and he cried, "Give me this mountain!" Whatever Jesus has in view here it certainly is

not to leave unemployed that heroic side in man, or to provide a means of escaping that discipline which develops his noblest powers.

But on the other hand there is nothing automatic in the good effects of difficulty in life. The facts of life that try us do not bless us whether we will or no. They have only too often been known "to deaden rather than illumine the mind, to embitter rather than purify the heart, to debase rather than ennoble the character." The one thing that transforms them into angels of light leading men to ever fresh visions of God and discoveries of what He can do, is faith. Our Lord was always calling for that—"Why is it that ye have no faith." "All things are possible to him that believeth." And hence He says, "Have faith in God, for verily I say unto you that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed and be thou cast into the sea, and shall not doubt in his heart but shall believe...he shall have whatsoever he saith."

Jesus' whole life as we know it is a standing proof of what He says, but it comes home with a special force when we remember that already He is in Jerusalem for the last battle of his life, that mountain of mysterious anguish filling the road before him. He is Himself in the calm and strength that carry Him victorious through these closing days the shining illustration of what faith can achieve.

Well, what is it in your life that you would call "this mountain"? At times we are given to making "mountains out of molehills," great inflated shapes that nothing but our own pride or fear have blown up before our eyes, but truly the mountain can be real enough. It may be poverty that defies us, or possibly business cares overwhelm us. It may be what Bunyan calls the "Hill Difficulty" that slows down a man's brave pace till he is struggling desperately at last on hands and knees. It may be the growing inroads of weakness or disease or old age and we cannot see past that black bulk to any prospect of peace or happiness. It may be a great grief that we feel as if we could never leave behind, as if it will always tower up and darken the road. Or it may be a great fear that all the omens point to as being presently a dead certainty. Or more strictly in our religious life



it may be the steadily mounting sense of failure, as if we could never get rid of its discouragement. Or it may be the sheer strength of some temptation that keeps on defeating us, as though crying gleefully "Where is now thy God?" Or it may be something huge that has blocked the road to the Kingdom of God for generations. Facing the Church today is the vast mass of people living with no redeeming knowledge of God, the still colossal total of those young and old, who are denied, for want of work, the road to character, the forbidding problem of how in the wide world to see the nations through to peace or some real measure of disarmament. There is no denying the mountains in our public and private life. The word "mountain" has always been synonymous with immovable steadfastness. A prophet long ago compared their rooted stability and permanence to the immemorial, changeless constancy of God Himself. There is something in every one of these mountains of trouble we have named so stubborn and intractable as to make our puny resources seem ridiculous. No wonder Jesus says, "Whosoever shall not doubt in his heart," for they look many of them as though nothing on earth could ever move them.

And nothing *on earth*, so to speak, ever will. But something in heaven will, the power that faith makes operative in human life. But what does Jesus mean by saying that faith can *remove* mountains? In His own case it apparently did nothing of the kind. The Cross remained the Cross. Even this superb and matchless faith could not make it anything else than a stark cross. The scourge that vealed his back, the crown of thorns, the nails, the thirst, the horror, all that gathered "damnation," as an old saint called it, remained, not one jot abated. What is more, that experience of Jesus, abnormal, outdoing all *we* would ever bear, is in another sense perfectly normal. It is happening every day. Even an expert in faith cannot change poverty into wealth, or incurable disease into health, or old age into youth, or remove the dire consequences of folly and dissipation, or make death anything else than death, or provide work for millions, or sweep people into the Church or the world into the League of Nations. Faith is not magic. Neither is it a substitute for effort and industry, for brains and endurance. A modern writer speaks of the way preachers mislead people by the use of sweeping and extravagant statements about what faith can do—with the result that many struggling creatures, not seeing anything spectac-

ular or apparently significant happening to them, think that, either the promises of religion must apply to exceptional cases, or that they are too bad to expect the great words to be true for them; anyhow they feel they have been let down. Well, it would for one thing be worth their while to remember first Jesus Himself who said "All things are possible to him that believeth," and if that faith could fling mountains into the heart of the seas, faith worked no transformation scene. The Cross remained a Cross.

What then did Jesus mean by language so deliberate—for the evangelist records His "verily I say unto you"—and language so heroic, yet to human eyes so pathetic and so futile? The answer is to be found in a fact of life that has been emphasized a thousand times. The fact is that what guides everything in life is the state of your own mind.

"Two men looked through the prison bars,  
One saw mud, and the other stars."

In so far as the mountains of life can make us timid and afraid, self-pitying and complaining, envious and ungrateful; in so far as they can block our way, bring us to a stand-still, doom us to frustration and defeat, it was our minds that gave them the power. Thus if a man has no working faith in God, no "first-hand acquaintance with Diety," as Emerson says, these mountains are just unreasonable, exasperating calamities, accursed obstacles to happiness, to be borne with as best one may, with anything from stoic fortitude to blank despair. But let a man look up beyond the mountains and believe that God the Helper and Keeper and Deliverer of man controls the world and makes all things to work together for good; that God can and will come in all His power to forgive and bless in the Love that never forgets a promise, and something wonderful can happen. It happens to the mountain, because it happens first to the man's heart. Persuaded by the love of Jesus than nothing conceivable could ever separate him from divine love, he is ready to believe, in spite of all evidence to the contrary, that God must be using this thing, that daunts and overshadows him, for the purposes of love. He sees his discipline as no longer a reason for unbelief but as an opportunity for faith. The mountain that blocked the way to blessedness becomes an open door for the King of Glory to come in. The mountain has ceased to be a mere mountain. It has been removed in the sense that the road is now clear that leads to peace and gratitude and hope. The mountain has

become a means of grace. Thousands upon thousands have proved this true. You remember how the Maoris decided to insult Bishop Selwyn by housing him in a pig-sty, and how he cleaned it out, gathered fern from the bush, and lived in it with such simple dignity that they said, "You cannot degrade that man." Of Bunyan writing the Pilgrim's Progress in a jail, of Paul with his sore scourged body in the stocks singing at midnight in the jail at Philippi, of Alan Cameron with his son Richard's head and hands on his old knees saying "God is the Lord who could never wrong me or mine," what can you say but that you couldn't imprison these men? The prison was removed in every case for by faith the liberated soul was out wandering in green pastures and by still waters.

There is a popular and quite deplorable beatitude, "Blessed is he that expecteth nothing, for he shall not be disappointed." It is forgivable

if it means, "Use your common sense, and don't expect miraculous transformations to occur. Don't expect the laws of the Universe to be set aside for your special benefit." If it means *that* we may let it pass. As a famous evangelist used to say, "If you eat salt herrings, even the grace of God won't keep you from being thirsty." There are limits in one way to what faith can do. As we have seen, it does not work magic; nor is it a substitute for action. But can we lay any stress on its limits, save to keep unthinking people right, when we think of its boundless possibilities within its own sphere? The truth there can only be, "Blessed is he that expecteth everything, for he shall not be disappointed." There the most extravagant language is left worlds behind, for not of the life beyond but of *this life* were the words written, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived what God hath prepared for them that love Him."

7/22/34

### A Missionary Centenary

Robert Morrison, the first Protestant missionary to China, died at Canton on August 1, 1834, one hundred years ago. William Carey had died at Serampore on June 9, a few weeks earlier, and by a strange coincidence the monopoly of the East India Company came to an end in the spring of the same year. Both Carey and Morrison had experienced the powerful opposition of this great company. Owing to the East India Company's hostility he could not sail for China on any British vessel. It was in a ship flying the Stars and Stripes that he journeyed from America to Canton, and armed with a letter of introduction from the American Secretary of State to the American Consul in China. This was a delicate arrangement, but under God it thwarted the powerful antagonism of the Company. And as Carey in India had to find shelter under the Danish flag to carry on his work, so for a time had Morrison in Canton to live under the American flag. How precarious his foothold was may easily be forgotten. If it had not been the Lord who was on his side, his stay would have been speedily cut short.

Morrison was surrounded on all hands by foes to the spread of the Gospel. The Chinese Emperor had told Lord Macartney in 1793, "The propagation of the English religion is a matter which can by no means be allowed." Morrison was beset with hindrances and limitations. "The people of Europe," he wrote, "have no idea of the

difficulties of residence, here, or of obtaining masters to teach. The Chinese are prohibited from teaching the language under penalty of death.' But with an earthenware lamp for a light, and a folio volume of Matthew Henry's Commentary for a shield, he sat at his books and made himself master of the language.

For most of his life he lived the life of a captive. The limits of the area reserved for foreign occupation at Canton were about 330 yards fronting the river, with a depth of 230 yards. But more than half of this was covered with buildings, and exercise upon the river was prohibited. Nor might sedan chairs be used, and no foreign woman, be she wife or friend, might so much as set a foot upon the soil. For nearly twenty-seven years, with only one furlough, this confined space was Robert Morrison's chief place of residence.

Through all his sojourn in Canton, Morrison was opposed by the Chinese Government. Within five years of his arrival an Imperial edict made it a capital offence to print any books in Chinese on the Christian religion. The Chinese officials broke into his printing room and carried off his type and threatened his assistants. It was no wonder that he said he felt 'lonely and in constant apprehension.' 'But,' he adds, 'I hope the Almighty Arm which has been my defence hitherto will still preserve me from all evil.'

Morrison's outstanding tasks were the completion of a Chinese-English Dictionary, for the



printing of which the East India Company spent £12,000, the translation of the whole Bible, in parts assisted by William Milne, for which the Bible Society spent several thousand pounds, a vocabulary of the Cantonese dialect, and a grammar of the Chinese language.

Though Morrison's version of the Scriptures, like Wycliffe's and Tyndale's English renderings, have been superseded by revised versions, the abiding legacy of his life remains. And not least of his bequests is the example of a triumphant faith in God, in face of terrible odds; his unwearying labours in accomplishing a Herculean task, his unflinching resolution against almost overwhelming opposition; and his uncomplaining spirit when melted by bereavement and painful misunderstandings. Such was the man who laid the foundations of the Protestant Church in China, and his life has its lessons for us in the extension of that Church to-day.

—*China's Millions.*

## Church House Hobbies

The following summary covers the present program of courses and activities.

### 1. Lectures

Dr. Moldenhawer continues his lectures on Shakespeare's Plays at 8 p.m. in the chapel. Also on alternate Tuesday evenings, at the same hour and in the same place, Miss Mary Howe, Concert Pianist and Organist, will give eight informal Musicales, which are grouped as "A Musical Travelogue."

The schedule is as follows:

- Oct. 9—Much Ado About Nothing  
*Dr. Moldenhawer*
- Oct. 16—(a) Music and World Power—Elizabethan England  
(b) Program consisting of the works of the 19th Century Romanticists  
*Miss Howe*
- Oct. 23—Romeo and Juliet  
*Dr. Moldenhawer*
- Oct. 30—(a) Music the Universal Language—Early Christian Music  
(b) We go to Poland, the "Land of Pianists."  
*Miss Howe*
- Nov. 6—Othello  
*Dr. Moldenhawer*
- Nov. 13—(a) That "Supreme Poet of the Piano, Chopin."  
(b) An all Chopin Program  
*Miss Howe*
- Nov. 20—Cymbeline  
*Dr. Moldenhawer*
- Nov. 27—(a) The Romance of the Piano  
(b) The Piano's growth told by the works of its Great Masters  
*Miss Howe*
- Dec. 4—The Winter's Tale  
*Dr. Moldenhawer*
- Dec. 11—(a) Christmas Carols of different nations.  
(b) Concerted Piano and Organ Program  
*Miss Howe*
- 1935
- Jan. 15—(a) What Constitutes a Musical Country?

(b) A Journey to Italy—Germany—

France

*Miss Howe*

Jan. 22—Richard III

*Dr. Moldenhawer*

Jan. 29—(a) Folk Tunes of Different Countries.

(b) A Journey to Austria—Russia—

Spain

*Miss Howe*

Feb. 5—The Sonnets

*Dr. Moldenhawer*

Feb. 12—How Music has come to Us

Music of Contrasting Style from many

Countries

*Miss Howe*

Feb. 19—The Lyrics

*Dr. Moldenhawer*

### 2. Dramatics

*Mr. Edmon Mossbarger*

*Tuesday nights and by announcement.*

The dramatic program for the coming year is being planned to offer activities that will appeal to those interested in various types of dramatic production. An operetta has been suggested for the fall, the usual Christmas presentation for the holiday season, and several full length modern plays for the spring. The personnel of the group is unlimited and we cordially invite those interested in any phase of this activity to leave their names and addresses at the Church Office.

### 3. Crafts

*Miss Alice Salt*

*Every Tuesday at 8 p.m.*

The work of this class will comprise needle craft, embroidery, crocheting, fancy work, hooked rugs, etc.

### 4. Glee Club

*Miss Roberta Bitgood*

*Tuesday nights at 7 p.m., beginning October 2.*

Try-outs will be held just before and after the regular rehearsals. In addition to the usual Glee Club projects: a Christian program, secular concerts at various outside places, and an occasional church service—there will be a performance of one of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas early in the season with the cooperation of the Dramatic Society.

*Expense.* A registration fee of one dollar to help meet incidental expense, is charged for membership in the Hobbies Club. The payment of this fee entitles the member to admission to the Shakespeare and Music Lectures, and all other activities, except the courses offered in Sculpture and Art.

### 5. The Art Classes:

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Finta's Classes will meet:

Mondays: 1 to 5 p.m.

Tuesdays: 7 to 10 p.m.

Wednesdays: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Thursdays: 3 to 5 p.m.; 8 to 10 p.m.

Fridays: 1 to 5 p.m.

Subjects: Cast drawing; Cast modeling.

Figure drawing; Figure modeling.

Portrait painting and modeling.

Still Life painting.

*Tuition.* To meet the actual expense of these classes to the Church, a registration fee of \$2 is charged, and, in addition, classroom work will be at the rate of 25 cents per hour. The full course of each class is for thirty (30) weeks, and the cost ranges from \$15 to \$30 per class, according to the number of hours in each. The term is divided into two semesters, and each semester's tuition is payable in advance. No refund for failure to attend classes.

## Young People's Society

### Summer Activities

The Young People's Society has had a very pleasant program for the summer — boat rides, swimming, picnics and beach parties. On July 4, the group, about forty in number, spent the day as guests of the Coast Guard Reserve, stationed at Fire Island. The trip was made by auto and a coast guard cutter was at our service for conveyance to the island, where the day was spent in swimming, with a choice of either the bay or the ocean. The boatripe in the morning was rivalled only by the return in the evening, with brilliant fireworks visible in the distance and the sunset making a fitting climax to a perfect day.

The interval between the Fourth of July and Labor Day was filled with beach parties at Riis Park, and moonlight sails up the Hudson, on the 'Americana.'

The last event of the outdoor season was the Labor Day outing to Bear Mountain, where we were the guests of Mr. Joe Palmer at his cabin. Uncertain weather did not spoil the day, and there was swimming, in both pool and lake; hiking; and visiting the museum, etc. — and of course, the scenery!

—Correspondent.

## Young People's Budget

The Society has always had its own budget written in the autumn. For the ensuing year as usual the benevolences exceed the administration. The object to which our contributions will go are:

Board of Foreign Missions .....	\$ 75.00
Board of National Missions .....	75.00
Our own Board of Deacons .....	150.00
Board of Christian Education .....	75.00
Federal Council of Churches.....	50.00
City Affairs Committee .....	25.00
Boys' Bureau .....	25.00
Girls' Service League .....	25.00
Civil Liberties Union .....	25.00
	<hr/>
	\$525.00
Administration including suppers .....	400.00
	<hr/>
	\$925.00

Copies of our recently issued Year Book can now be obtained at the Church Office.

\* \* \* \*

Dr. Moldenhawer is preaching a series of sermons on *Deliverance*.

\* \* \* \*

The College and Business Women's Club, of which Miss Cynthia Noel is the new president resumed its autumn program with a Tea on Sunday, September 30, when Dr. Moldenhawer spoke.

## Maine Again

H. V. Morton has said there are mornings now and then, rarer as a man grows older, which come steeped in the lost wonder of youth. Everything is sharper, more lovely, more desirable, so that, alive to the very finger-tips with the beauty of the world, a man trembles, it seems, on the threshold of a discovery. Such things are outside normal experience, he says. It is almost as though the spirit had crossed the boundary between this world and the next.

It is on such an ecstatic morning that I sit on the verandah of The Maples, back as it lies from the main traffic artery, and gaze enthralled across the waters of Frenchman Bay at the massive mountains of Mount Desert. Now and then there is a heliographic flash from the windows of a car ascending the magnificent driveway to the top of Cadillac Mountain, but mostly the slopes are faintly greenish streaked with black and purple as the thin grey veils of autumn mist, queerly twisted, fall away before the sun. Thick, white clouds race across the sky casting their black shadows on the sun-flecked mountain side — truly a Scots day. The air comes sweet and fresh from the sea, and as one listens the put-put of a lobster-boat sounds across the water.

Nearby is Sorrento, a gem set with beautiful cottages, and nestling among the firs, the picturesque Church of the Redeemer. Here all summer for many years Bishop Freeman of Washington Cathedral has addressed his friends and neighbors each Sunday morning. A beautiful and dignified service participated in by all the congregation, so largely made up of fine younger men and women, was the prelude to an excellent sermon on the necessity for Christians being Christian, "Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called."

Returning home we reached Litchfield at church time and enjoyed a worshipful Communion service in the beautiful Colonial Congregational Church. There we were pleased to meet Miss Lilley, formerly a member of the First Church.

D. N. R.

The Church School resumed its regular sessions on Sunday September 30.

\* \* \* \*

*It's ill to loose the bands that God decreed to bind,  
Still will we be the children of the heather and the  
wind,  
Far away from home, oh! it's still for you and me,  
That the bloom is blowing bonnie in the North  
Countrie.*

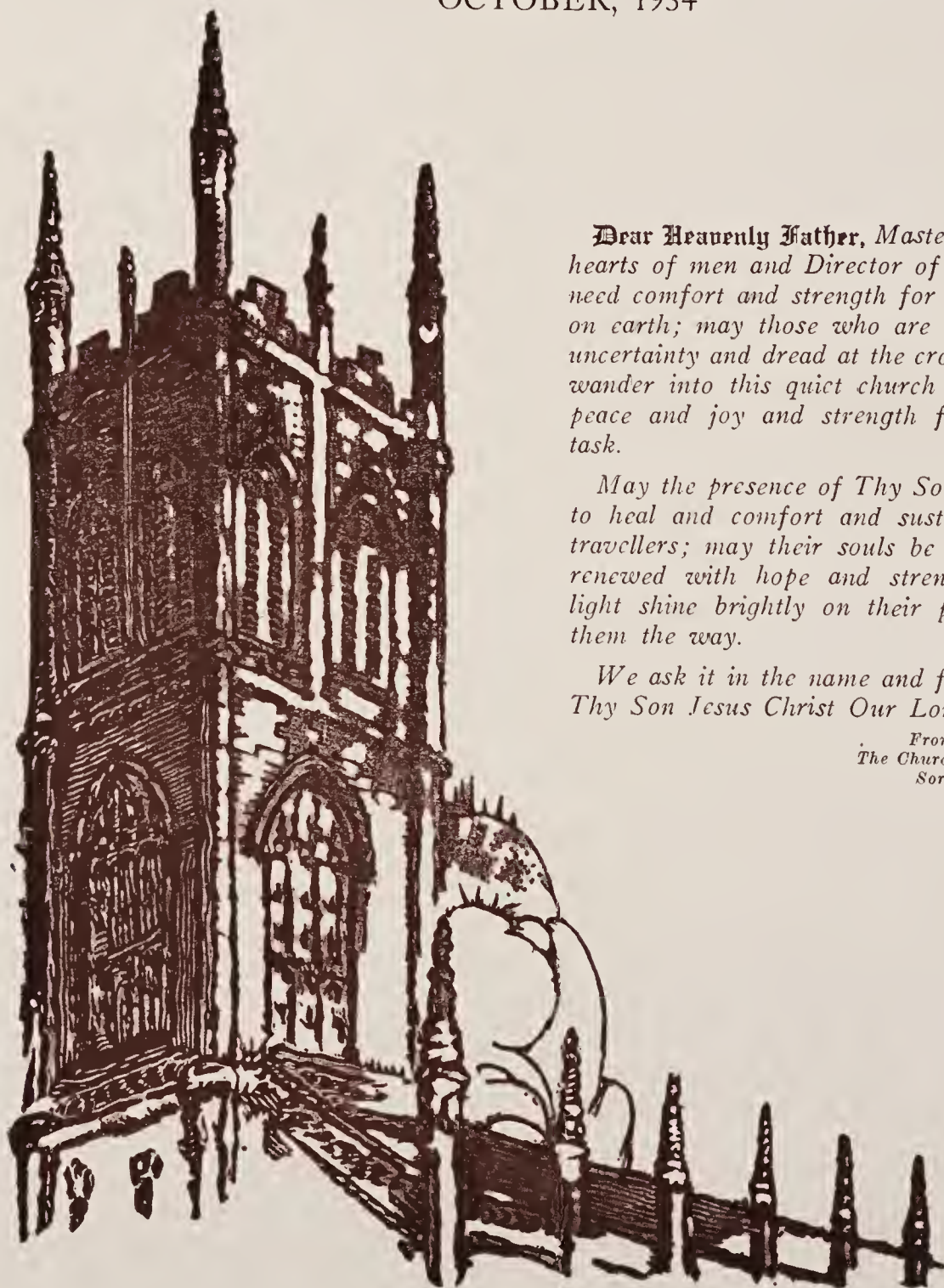
Robert Louis Stevenson



# The Church Tower

of the  
First Presbyterian Church

OCTOBER, 1934



*Dear Heavenly Father, Master of all the hearts of men and Director of all those who need comfort and strength for their life here on earth; may those who are wavering with uncertainty and dread at the crossways of life wander into this quiet church and here find peace and joy and strength for their daily task.*

*May the presence of Thy Son be ever near to heal and comfort and sustain the weary travellers; may their souls be refreshed and renewed with hope and strength; may the light shine brightly on their paths, showing them the way.*

*We ask it in the name and for the sake of Thy Son Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.*

*From the Porch of  
The Church of the Redeemer,  
Sorrento, Maine.*

# THE CHURCH TOWER

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Published monthly (except July to September) at 1109 DeKalb Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y., by  
**The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York.**

Communications may be addressed to the publishing office, 1109 DeKalb Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.,  
or to the church office, 12 West 12th Street, New York.

Subscription, One Dollar Per Annum

*Entered as second class matter at the Post Office, at Brooklyn, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879.*

Committee of Session: G. BRUCE OVERTON and ROBERT W. BOYD

MISS M. EMILY HAUSLER, *Circulation*

DAVID NOBLE ROBERTSON, *Editor*

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Vol. 11

OCTOBER, 1934

No. 8

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## The Church Tower

At this season of the year we resume publication of our church paper, and look forward to the new season's work with confidence and enthusiasm.

We appeal to those who are responsible for the activities carried on under the auspices of the First Church to supply *The Church Tower* with announcements in advance, to which we shall always be happy to give publicity, and reports of special occasions of interest to our readers.

## Holy Communion

The regular autumn celebration of Communion occurred on October 7 at the morning service. At the moment of writing it is hoped that a very large number of our own members will be present to share in this supreme service of Divine worship as we embark upon the winter's work.

A Sacrament is much more than a bare symbol. What would be the value of the Holy Supper if it were simply a memorial of a Divine visitation long ago, and not a pledge and a discovery of the Lord's abiding presence?

We are no true children of the Reformation if we lack the sacramental spirit, and lightly esteem the grace which resides in those blessed ordinances.

## Summer Ended

Dr. Moldenhawer returned to his pulpit on September 16 having spent the summer happily and restfully at Rensselaerville. Almost his only engagement during the summer was a series of five lectures on the Bible to a conference of Congregational ministers at Middlebury, Vermont.

Dr. Carl recommenced his duties at the organ on the same day. Dr. Carl as usual spent the summer in Austria and Germany.

The rest of the church staff are now once again in full swing and by the time this appears all activities will be under way.

## Summer Preachers

Among the summer preachers the ministry of Rev. Adam Burnet of Glasgow, was greatly enjoyed by those who heard him. During the three Sundays when he occupied our pulpit the attendance notably increased from week to week, so that, recalling the similar fact during the visit of Dr. Daniel Lamont a year or two since, we reached the conclusion that a continuous ministry for a series of Sundays during the summer is preferable to incidental preachers.

Mr. Burnet's prayers were greatly appreciated especially his prayers for the President and his counsellors, so beautifully and graciously worded, and voicing the worshippers' desires better than they could themselves have expressed them.

We are very glad indeed to be able to give our readers Mr. Burnet's sermon on Faith in response to repeated requests.

## The Rev. Elliott Speer

All the friends of Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Speer, of Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Speer and of Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Welles,—all so closely identified with this church and so beloved,—received aghast and with torn hearts the news of the brutal murder of Mr. Speer, headmaster of Mount Herman School for Boys. For days it weighed upon us all, so that for days we could give our minds to nothing else. After Mr. Speer's ordination he was the minister of our own Bethlehem Chapel, and Dr. Speer and Mr. Welles are elders among us.

A correspondent of the N. Y. Times—Jean C. Cochrane truly says of Mr. Speer, "Already he had become a brilliant leader, and thousands of young lives had become quickened by con-

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MARY AND ANNIE KATE.

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Sidney L. Gulick

SIDNEY L. GULICK  
433 WEST 21ST STREET  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

December 17, 1934  
2451 E. Maunaloa Rd  
Honolulu, T. H.

Dear Mr. Speer

I was shocked beyond measure to see in an "Advance" which caught up with me a few days ago, the account of the tragic sorrow that has come into the life of yourself & Mrs Speer in the death of your son. My heart goes out in deep sympathy to you both & to his wife & children. What a strange providence that his life so full of promise should have been so suddenly & criminally ended!

Would that I might express in person, face to face, my sympathy & sorrow. Words - written words - do seem so cold & inadequate. Comfort & strength in this time of deep need have I am sure been granted you in full measure from the Heavenly Father.

Ever faithfully & lovingly yours

Sidney L. Gulick



with. Affs. Quelle

BUNGALOW 3 - 1929 SCOTTWOOD AVENUE - TOLEDO, OHIO

My dear and lovely Lady: -

Because I  
remember so well after the death  
of my younger brother during  
the war, that my mother found  
her dearest days there that  
followed after the final numbers  
of death, as she sat + wrote - o  
the realization of a constant  
and continuous sense of loss,  
I have wished to write you, hoping  
that this letter might bring  
you my special and tender  
love at a time when you might  
be needing it most.

And because I carry so vividly  
in my mind the picture  
of you as I talked with you last,  
you dead high and your courage

unfolding, I know that you  
are meeting this season with  
unshaken faith and without that  
questioning of God's goodness  
that ever brings dissatisfaction.  
As I have told of you over and  
over, it has ever been with  
an assurance, a certainty  
that you were standing steadfast.  
For that assurance I bless you —  
You never will know what I  
have love for me in my life.  
I only wish there were some  
way that I could express my  
love to you, and could make  
you know the love.

I tell you again the assurance  
of my love.

Miss Julia

Number eight.

THE STONY BROOK SCHOOL  
STONY BROOK, LONG ISLAND

107

OFFICE OF THE HEADMASTER  
FRANK E. GAEBELEIN, LITT. D.

12 November, 1934

My dear Doctor Speer:

The Memorial Service for your son leads me to send you this word of sympathy. Although you did not hear from me earlier, let me assure you that your friends at Stony Brook have been praying for you and your family - not only when news of your bereavement first reached us but also more recently.

It was not my privilege to know your son personally. But I have friends who knew him well, and I have, of course, been aware of his fine character and achievement. Our hearts have gone out to you and Mrs. Speer and also to your daughter-in-law and grandchildren. It will continue to be my prayer that, as the days pass, the Lord Jesus will give you all increasing comfort through His own marvellous grace. I rejoice in your faith in our victorious Lord who is so near to us in His loving compassion, for I know that even in these deep waters your sorrow is not as that of "others which have no hope." There will indeed remain for you and yours a place in our prayers.

Faithfully yours in our Lord.

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
New York  
N.Y.

Frank E. Gaeblein

678

Ventnor, New Jersey,  
8 Sacramento Ave.,  
Sept. 17, 1934.

Mr. Robert E. Speer, D.D.,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York,  
N.Y.

Dear Dr. Speer:

Word reached us here Saturday evening of the great sorrow that has come to you. Having in these later years passed through experiences of deep trial, we are in some measure prepared to understand the experience which has come to you.

In an event so mysterious, we find consolation in your own strong faith, and in the assurance given by a loving Father, that when we pass through the waters, he will be with us; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow us.

Mrs. Gillam and I are spending the month of September in one of the Fellowship houses. I preached in the Presbyterian Church of Ocean City yesterday morning, and spoke at night on "India."

With warmest regards,

Cordially Yours,

*S. M. Gillam*

528

New Hampton, N.H.

October 17th, 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer,

New York City:

Dear Dr Speer:

I wish to add to the countless expressions of sympathy which have certainly come to you and Mrs. Speer my own respectful sympathy. It is indeed a terrible experience through which you have gone, to lose an only son and in such a way. May the Father of an only Son and a slain One give you his consolation.

Faithfully Yours,

Ernest Gordon

*Ernest Gordon*



014

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NICHOLSON, PENNA.

W. A. GUENTHER, PASTOR

Friday 21, 1934.

Dr. Robert C. Speer  
156 Fifth Ave. N.Y.

My dear Dr. Speer:

I have just read in the Time Magazine the terrible account of the death of your son. Although you do not know who I am, I wanted to write to extend to you my sincere sympathy at this time.

At Princeton, I have twice heard you speak (1932 & 33). During the recent controversies which have centered about the Board of Foreign Missions, I have admired and sympathized with you. So at a time such as this, I hope you will forgive me for cluttering up your mail with another letter and accept this as a note of sympathy from an unknown friend.

Sincerely

W. A. Guenther



674  
JOHN H. GROSS  
WITHERSPOON BUILDING  
PHILADELPHIA

September 18, 1934.

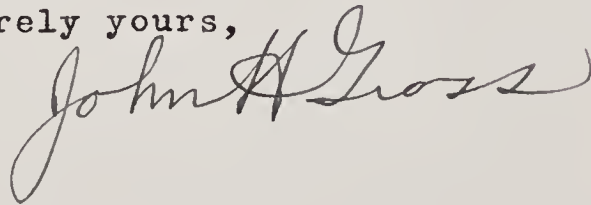
Dear Dr. Speer:

I do not know how to find words for what I wish to write in connection with the tragic sorrow that presses upon many but that is heaviest on you and your loved ones.

It has never been my good fortune to be close to you in personal ways, but I doubt whether any man in the world has influenced me more toward Christian living and Christian service. I have not only honored you from the days of my youth, but have been encouraged constantly by your example in the ways of our Faith.

It is my conviction that the Lord who has so greatly used you will supply you and yours with comfort and grace sufficient even unto this dark hour.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John H. Gross". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "John H. Gross".

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York City.

043  
✓

October 8, 1934

Dear Mr. Speer,

Do you remember the little chorus we sang to you a few years ago?

"Mr. Speer, our hearts to you, our hands to you,

Mr. Speer, our hearts and hands to you!"

That, if it could be, is more true today than ever before.

We all wish that we might do something to make your burden and sorrow lighter. At the time of the death of my brother in France in 1918,

the following lines of Robert Louis Stevenson were a great comfort to me.

I hope they may mean as much to you and Mrs. Speer now.

"Yet, O stricken heart, remember, O remember,  
How of human days he lived the better part.  
April came to bloom, and never dim December  
Breathed its killing chill upon the head or heart.

Doomed to know not winter, only spring, a being  
Trod the flowery April blithely for a while,  
Took his fill of music, joy of thought and seeing,  
Came and stayed and went, nor ever ceased to smile.

Came and stayed and went, and now when all is finished,  
You alone have crossed the melancholy stream,  
Yours the pang, but his, O his, the undiminished,  
Undecaying gladness, undeparted dream.

All that life contains of torture, toil and treason,  
Shame, dishonor, death, to him were but a name.  
Here, a boy, he dwelt through all the singing season  
And ere the day of sorrow departed as he came."

Sincerely,

*Frances Graham*

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, New York.

513  
Biglerville Pa., Oct 6, 1934

Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Speer

156 Fifth Ave.,

New York City.

Dear Dr and Mrs. Speer:

I thank God  
for the testimony to his grace  
that you are able to give  
us. We are to think of  
what allowed to happen  
to his own Son and thereby  
great good has come.

With prayers,

Annabel Galt.

First Presbyterian Church  
WOODBURY, NEW JERSEY

THE MANSE  
44 EUCLID STREET  
WOODBURY

GEORGE E. GILLESPIE  
MINISTER

September 18 - 1934

My dear Bob -

Never have I been more stunned than when I heard of the terrible death of your son. It is perfectly dreadful. There is nothing that I can say <sup>other</sup> than to assure you and Mrs. Spear of the most heartfelt sympathy of Mrs. Gillespie and myself. We know the sorrow of your heart in a way, having lost our own boy as it were in the twinkling of an eye, so in a measure we know something of your grief.

What a wonderful thing we have One to whom we can go and in whom we can lean at such times. I know the God whom you have so nobly and wonderfully served will comfort your hearts and sustain you in this your hour of deepest sorrow.

I wish I could express to you the sympathy of my heart but just be assured that the very deepest I know goes out to you with sincerest affection.

As always most sincerely Your friend  
G. E. Gillespie

54

CHARLES L. GOODELL  
FEDERAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES  
NEW YORK CITY

105 East 22 St.

Sept 15.

My dear Dr & Mrs Spear;

I have just seen  
in the "Sun" the terrible news of the death  
of your son Elliott. I met him  
frequently when I have been to Northfield  
to speak and have talked with Mr Fay  
the President of Northfield about his  
fine work. My heart goes out to you  
in this great loss and the manner  
in which it comes to you. May the  
consolations which you have brought  
to others in deep bereavement give cheer  
and support to you in this darkness.

With many prayers and the deepest sympathy.

Sincerely yours

C. L. Goodell



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MISSIONS  
A BAPTIST MONTHLY MAGAZINE  
HOWARD B. GROSE, D. D., EDITOR

152 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Monday Vernon, October 1, '84.

Dear Dr. Syer:

If I have delayed writing you since the news came of the baffling tragedy that has befallen you and your family, it has not been from any lack of heartfelt sympathy on the part of Mrs. Grose and myself. You have been daily in our thoughts and prayers, and with the innumerable company of your friends the world over we have shared in some degree your sorrow.

~~For~~ such revolting crimes as this I can find no satisfactory solution. The only text that keeps running through my mind is that where trust has to take the place of reason: "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him."

May our Lord and Master who said, "Go, I am with you all the days," and whom you have exalted to your life and work be now ever more certainly to you. Be your all sufficient stay in this hour.

With love and esteem, faithfully.

Howard B. Grose.



618

BENJAMIN MCKEE GEMMILL  
HARTSVILLE, PA.

Sept. 15, 1934

Dear Dr. Speer: -

I am deeply grieved for you because of the terrible tragedy which befell your son. I am so sorry to think that any one should be so low in sin as to cause you such suffering. I can not imagine what a father's feelings must be who is called upon to go through such experiences. I knew your son when he was at Lafayette. It is so distressing to think that one so young should be deprived of life in such a cowardly manner. I can only commend you to God whose love is never failing and who is a present help in time of trouble. My prayers go <sup>out</sup> for you in this grief. I know you must be bearing a heavy load in these disastrous days and I trust that you may find that God's strength is sufficient for you in this hour of tears.

Yours as ever  
Benj. M. Gemmill

20 Rowley St., Bridgeport, Conn.

Sept. 17, 1934

Dr Robert E. Speer

1516 Fifth Avenue

New York City

Dear Dr Speer,

I have seen in the paper an account of the  
inward Herman Maged. It has filled this Quinwood  
and myself with deep distress. I wish in a  
word or two to express the profound sympathy  
of as both in your great sorrow.

Affectionately yours

H.D. Quinwood

TEUNIS E. GOUWENS, D. D.  
MINISTER

JOHN J. DAVIS  
CLERK OF SESSION

Second Presbyterian Church  
SECOND AND BROADWAY  
LOUISVILLE, KY.

September 24th, 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions,  
156-Fifth Ave.  
New York

My dear Dr. Speer:-

I just returned from a trip abroad and learned of the sad death of your son. I did not know him personally but knew of him and his splendid work through Dr. Russell of Larchmont.

This is just a brief note to assure you of the depth of my sympathy with you. My prayer is that God, by his Holy Spirit, may interpret this experience to you, that he may strengthen you and yours and give you comfort and that his peace, his deep peace, may prevail in your hearts.

Very sincerely yours,



TEG:ABE

856  
Addison, N.Y.

Oct. 3rd., 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
Board of Foreign Missions,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y.

My Dear Dr. Spear:-

Our Great Church and the Christian World was greatly shocked by the news of the tragic death of your beloved son.

The Laymen's Association of the presbytery of Steuben-Elmira, at its meeting in Elmira last night, wished me to express the deep sympathy of every member of our organization.

We feel keenly for you and your family in this hour of your sorrow, and we pray God that He may give you grace sufficient to bear the burden. Perhaps from this we shall come, in some small way, to appreciate His love towards us when He permitted what He did to happen to His own dear Son. Our faith is strengthened in our assurance that St. Paul was right in what he said in Romans 8:14-18.

Be assured that you have the love and prayers of this Association and a multitude of people through the entire world.

Most sincerely yours.

*H. M. Goff*

President,  
Laymen's Association,  
Presbytery of Steuben-Elmira.



018  
Rev. Arno Clemens Gaebelin, D. D.

PRESIDENT AMERICAN-EUROPEAN  
FELLOWSHIP

VICE PRESIDENT STONY BROOK  
ASSEMBLY AND SCHOOL

AUTHOR, LECTURER, PUBLICIST

EDITOR "OUR HOPE"

456 Fourth Avenue  
New York City

Sept 17

Mr and Mrs Robert E. Speer

Dear Friends:

With thousands of others we have offered prayer for you, that the everlasting arms carry you through the deep waters of sorrow through which you have passed. He who ever liveth and intercedeth for us, who still prays "that thy faith fail not" - by His own gracious power has sustained you.

And we long when we shall know as we are known - when the mists have rolled away - all will be explained by Himself. Then all tears will be wiped away.

Our heartfelt sympathy in which Mrs Gaebelin joins

Yours in that blessed Hope  
A. C. Gaebelin

MS

JOHN M. GASTON  
509-511 BESSEMER BUILDING  
PITTSBURGH, PENNA

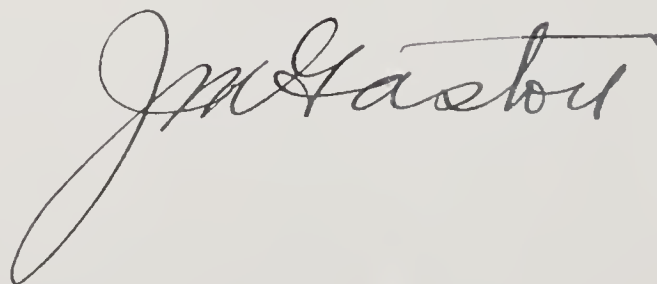
September 28, 1934.

Rev. Robert E. Speer, D. D.,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Speer:

I have been travelling  
over the south and read in the papers of the  
terrible sorrow that has come to your home.  
May I assure you of my deepest sympathy and  
earnest prayer in your behalf.

Ever your friend,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John M. Gaston". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed text "Ever your friend,".

JMG:S



OH

YENCHING UNIVERSITY  
150 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK

September 17th, 1934

Dr and Mrs Robert L. Spear  
24 Gramercy Park,  
New York City.

Dear Dr and Mrs Spear:-

We have been shocked to learn through the news in the papers during the last two or three days of the very tragic death of your son at Northfield. It is sad beyond all expression and Mrs Gee and I wish to express to you our sympathy in your bereavement.

We feel a sense of personal loss also because our young daughter, Cl-ribel, is going to the Seminary there and we had looked forward to her being from time to time under the influence of your son. We feel now that one of the strong spirits there has gone and it will be difficult to fill his place.

Very sincerely,

*M. Gist Gee*

M. Gist Gee.

Answered  
Sept 23, 1934

282 Dwight Street  
New Haven, Connecticut.  
Sept. 17, 1934

Rev. Robert Elliott Speer  
The Mount Hermon School  
Northfield, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Speer:

May I offer my deepest sympathy in your recent  
bereavement, the passing of your beloved son.

Although not personally acquainted with him myself, the Mount  
Hermon boys who were my students at Yale, often have spoken in his  
praise. I know the great loss of his Christian leadership and  
sturdy ideals will be deeply felt at Mount Hermon.

Sincerely,

Geo. Scott Gleason

SHG

Ww

Rev. Robert E. Spier D.D.  
118 Fifth Ave., New York City.

Dear Dr. Spier,

This is just to  
tell you that you and  
yours are in our thoughts  
and prayers all along  
the days.

Sincerely yours  
Sallie St. Greene

126 W. High Street, Phila.  
November 14<sup>th</sup> 1934.

ack.

228 East 71<sup>st</sup> St.,  
New York U. S. C.

---

9.18.34.

My dear Mr. Spaul -

I was greatly shocked  
to hear of your son's  
tragic death - and  
would like you to  
know that I am  
thinking of you with  
deepest sympathy -

Sincerely yours  
Jane Grier

---

Sunday Afternoon  
Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> 1934

Dear Mr. Speer:-

It was such a shock to me to have  
Dr. Roddy in service this morning -  
Commend you & Dr. Speer to God's care  
Immediately after, I found the reason.

That a sad happening to a family  
who have all been doing for others  
rather than themselves for so long.

You have my deepest sympathy -  
You will know I am sorrowing  
with you even tho' I see the reason  
behind it.

The world seems to come to an end  
when a dear one goes to the other.

world - the question - Why - Why -  
but soon strength comes from  
above and we try our best and  
take up the burdens of the world, which  
we expect for a while - Life must  
go on and our work is still undone  
so we find on an anxious go for-  
ward, & carry on as best we may

Most sincerely yours,

John E. Thompson



ack.

3 East College Campus  
Eastern Pennsylvania

My dear Mrs Speer -

Mr. Gordon and I  
want you and your family  
to know we are thinking  
of you and that you have  
our deepest sympathy  
in your great sorrow.  
We have always loved

God bless you all.

Sincerely

Annie Lavier Gordon.

Thursday.

Holly and Elliott very  
dearly - They seemed  
like Mr. very own.

Elliott nearly always  
stayed with us when he  
came back to Easton and  
we looked forward to his  
coming with so much pleasure.  
He was fine in  
every way —

67

HOTEL BRIGHTON  
ATLANTIC CITY

My dear Doctor Speer,

Accept  
my deep sympathy in this  
appalling tragedy in your  
home. I do not forget that  
your words of thoughtful  
comfort were a solace to  
me in my sorrow last year.

Knowing therefore the profound  
resources of your great faith  
I cannot help but feel that  
you will be mightily under-  
girded by the everlasting arms  
in this trial of it. May this  
be true is the prayer of

Your brother in Christ.

Albert Dale Gantz.

9/16/34

6

57

233 South Fulton Ave  
Mount Vernon  
New York  
Saturday Eve.

My dear Dr. Speer:

May I express  
to you my Keen Sympathy  
in your bereavement, of  
which I learned this after-  
noon. My heart went out  
to you, and the good wife,  
in this peculiar trial. At some  
such times God's wisdom alone  
guides our troubled hearts, and  
we know the shadow of His  
wing is all our refuge and  
strength, resting in His prom-  
ises. With kindest wishes

Evangeline Gerard.

Fifth Ave. Presb. Church.



87

1111 Spink St.  
Wooster Ohio  
Sept, 17, 1934.

Dr. Robt E. Speer,  
56 Fifth Ave.  
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Speer, —

This letter  
carries to you and Mrs Speer  
our love and deepest sympathy  
because of this added  
grief that has so recently  
come to you.

May you both receive

in special measure an  
abundance of his grace  
and comfort and love  
which you at all times  
share so much with  
others.

Very sincerely

Mrs. J. S. Emma B. Ford.

67  
74 WEST MARSHALL ROAD  
LANSDOWNE, PENNSYLVANIA

September 17, 1954.

Dear Mr. Speer.

With your friends in all parts of the world I have been stunned by the news of Elliott's tragic death.

When we visited the Northfield Girls' School two years ago Elliott and his wife came over to call on us at Miss Wilson's home. That was the last time I saw him. Our friendships dated back to his Andover days.

Ms. Gurley and I want to extend our deepest sympathy to you and Mrs. Speer in your great bereavement. We are happy that you have so richly that comfort

74 WEST MARSHALL ROAD  
LANSDOWNE, PENNSYLVANIA

Dr. Speer - 2

which only complete faith in  
Christ can give; that those we love  
do enter into life with Him when  
they leave us here for a time.

With affectionate regard,  
believe me,

Most sincerely your friend,

Alvin B. Surkey

SPOTTISWOODE  
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA

677

Dear Dr. & Mrs. Speer-

I am more distressed  
than I can express in words, to  
read in a Florida paper this  
morning of the loss that has come  
to you. And it is not only to you,  
but to whole neighborhoods of men.

May God bless you and give you  
the comfort of his peace.

Very sincerely yours.

Maria McElhaine Gilmore

September 16, 1934



87

MR. AND MRS. FRED S. GOODMAN  
TOCLETA COTTAGE  
SILVER BAY, NEW YORK

Montclair, Monday A.M.

Sept. 17/34

My Dear Robert:

Simply to remind you of  
the fellowship of your friends, with  
you and yours in these trying  
days of the great mystery about  
you dear Sam, Elliott.

Our dear Lord knows who are  
in touch with Him, and who know  
the meaning of His all sufficient  
grace. We cannot share your  
great sorrow, but we can and do  
pray frequently. He will show you  
what it all means. God give you  
and yours, all needed strength, affectionately  
Fred S. Goodman

512  
/

25 EAST WALTON PLACE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

September 16, 1934

My dear Dr. Speer.

I hesitate to intrude upon you even the deep sympathy of one so far upon the circumference, but with hosts of others I was so profoundly shocked and moved by the news of your son's tragic death that I felt I must write to you.

The feeling for you is so deep and genuine among the members of our Congregational Community in this area and among my associates that we felt that we should like to express to

You, not only the profound regard in which  
you are held throughout the wider Church.  
But our prayer, that God in His goodness  
through Christ, may greatly sustain you  
and your household in this hour.

Yours very sincerely  
Ernest Graham Guthrie

My dear Mr + Mrs Spur.

I can never tell you  
how much I have thought  
of you both during this past  
week - in your deep sorrow.  
My those who have loved  
& lost" can really feel  
strongly for you both, and  
I feel sure I can say  
nothing to you two that will  
help you, but I just want

you to know I am thinking  
of you, I am here for two  
weeks, to have a little chance  
affording a "put in" some  
last March with a Harriet  
Hue. Just before leaving  
my home in Freeport-Pa.  
& before I heard of your  
sorrow death - I was reading  
the lovely book that you,  
Mrs. Spier, wrote - on prayer -  
and after I finished one  
of the chapters, I laid the  
book down - & let my mind



Remember to the time when  
you were with me young,  
+ my two loved ones were  
with me. And how we  
loved you both - + what  
wonderful young people  
you were to be - then took  
up my work + finished  
it. The next day I heard  
of your sorrow. How strange  
that I had been reading  
that book - while you were  
so sad. I was greatly  
shocked. And wanted  
to write you at once - but



I did not mean at all to  
write a note - or wanted  
to send just a formal card.  
As you know I am  
thinking of you & hoping the  
shock will not be too  
damaging for you to hear, God  
sees with you both through  
it all.

Your loving friend

Maudie L. Gillespie

Mr John  
Cambridge Springs.  
Pa.

57  
Sept. 20 1934

UNDERWOOD COTTAGE  
NANTUCKET ISLAND  
MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Dr. Speer,

The tragedy that  
has recently befallen you  
simply stunned me. While  
I did not know Elliott,  
knowing and loving you  
as I do, I could not help  
but feel deeply the sudden  
and tragic sorrow into  
which you were so suddenly  
plunged. On my way  
through New York last  
Tuesday, I tried to see you  
in person, but learned that  
you would likely be in  
Lakeville for the rest of September.

It seems to me that  
Christ has great confi-  
dence in your Christian  
fortitude and your possession  
of the love that beareth  
all things for you have  
been called upon to  
endure a lot these past  
months and now comes  
the shock of this great  
sorrow. But I know  
you will not be wanting  
in grace that is sufficient.

Be assured of my deepest  
love and sympathy in this  
your hour of trial and always.  
I am here for two weeks  
rest and study. Expect to  
return to Germantown Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>.  
ever yours,  
"Tom" Gurley

627

Laguna Beach, Calif.  
Sept. 18-1934

Dr. and Mrs. Speer-

Dear friends:-

It was with deep sadness that I read this morning in a Los Angeles paper of the sudden, tragic death of your son. Please accept my most heart felt sympathy.

I have spent the summer with my son James & his family. He has been fighting for his life for over a year. Now thanks to our dear Heavenly

Father, seems to be winning.  
This is a case of wounded artery  
after two relapses after "flu".

With prayers that the peace  
and consolation that  
is from on high be yours

Believe me

Most sincerely

(Mrs. J. F.) Emma F. Garvin



57

505 - Mayoria St  
New Arrington Fla -  
Smagina Sept 19/34

Dear Robert:

I have hesitated to invade the sacred solemnity of your sorrow, but I must at least give you my Mrs Spear a silent hand-clasp as we view the strange, unexplainable catastrophe which has interrupted so promising a life as that of Elliot. That is, from the earthly point of view. From the Divine view, you will know, his life is begun, and there will be a satisfying and glorious explanation. Thank God for that!

But we sorrow with you, so deeply!

Ever affectionately  
J. C. Garritt for.



57

Chicago Ill.  
Sept. 18. 1934

Dear Dr. Spear:—

It seems impossible  
to find words to express  
our emotion <sup>and</sup> our feeling  
of the death of your son,  
Elliott.

The Persians say "dil  
ba dil rakh dawrad,"  
"There is a pathway from  
heart to heart," and by this  
road we want to send  
our sincere message

Of Christian love and  
assurance, that you  
may know of our  
sympathy and prayers.

Most sincerely,

Taylor + Lucretia Gurney  
V.

Dr. Robert C. Speer.

156 - Fifth Ave.

New York - City.

The First Presbyterian Church  
OF LANSINGBURGH  
TROY, N. Y.

September 21. 34

Dr. Robert C. Speer,  
New York City, N.Y.  
my dear Dr. Speer:

I just want to add my  
word of sympathy and friendship to  
you and yours in your most severe

loss.

may you be comforted as you  
have comforted others and may  
your faith be sufficient for all  
your needs.

Very Sincerely,  
Seth H. Jenney

97

453 TREMONT PLACE  
ORANGE  
NEW JERSEY

Sept. 16, 1934.

Dear Dr. Sheer-

I want to express to you  
and your family my sincere sym-  
pathy in this time of your great  
sorrow.

Yours sincerely

J. Ralston Grant, Jr.

33 SOMERSET ROAD  
WEST NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

My dear Doctor Speer,

You and your wife  
have our deep sympathy in your recent  
and sudden bereavement. It is in-  
deed a mystery that a young life con-  
secrated to the service of humanity  
has been cut short so suddenly and  
so wantonly. Brief as was his earthly  
life, your son had accomplished much.

Sincerely yours

September 23, 1934.

Herbert E. Greene.

I shall soon have occasion to write to you about  
another matter



deepest sympathy -  
It was a privilege to have  
known your splendid son  
at Skibo Castle -

Mrs. Elgin R. L. Gould

With warmest regards  
from Mary H. Gould.

C. H.

15 East 69th Street

2889 San Paequal

My dear Dr. & Mrs. Llew:

May your friends in Los Angeles Presbyterian join with the many, many others all over the Christian world in expressing their deep sympathy with you in this time of great sorrow. There is nothing we can say but what you already know so well, but we did want you to know our hearts are with you in loving sympathy.

Very sincerely,

Maudie B. Lantz,  
Cor. Sec. R. A. Presbyterian.

Pasadena, Calif. Oct. 30, '34.

am.

THE  
GARDEN

My Dear Emma

We have all been greatly shocked  
by the tragic death of Miss. To think  
that the useful life of such a fine  
man has been needlessly cut short -  
by a degenerate. For he could have no  
reasons. It seems as though every  
thing is being done now to show the

in your great love -  
I do not lose your  
address so need not

to Eaglewood and  
I hope you will  
receive it.

Affectingly yours  
Adeline Elder Greigord

Nothing and are upright, - Poddy  
has no place in the present-  
scheme of life - There would have  
been so many more years of  
usefulness and good example  
for him to live - Our deepest  
sympathy goes out to you and  
Dr. Spier and Mrs. Elliot Spier.

steady, bright citizens and lead them  
up to the concept and desire of  
those who speak nobly and those  
who will not work. Will the  
men of this country never wake  
up to the danger of these radical  
leaders & degenerates and stamp  
them out. Life means less than





ack.

Dear Mrs Speer

I know that there is  
nothing which I can say at  
this time that will be of  
much comfort to you and your  
family.

But I want you to know that

I am thinking of you and grieving  
for you. And if there is anything  
at all that I can do for you  
I hope you will call on me.

With deepest sympathy  
Ellen Luffingwell Grosman

ack,

KEENE VALLEY  
NEW YORK

Dear "Mrs. Speer:-

I want to join with  
all your many other friends to tell  
you how sorry I am that this  
tragic thing has come to you and  
your family, and to send you my  
deep sympathy and affection.

Henrietta Gibson

September 22, 1934.

ack.

33 SOMERSET ROAD  
WEST NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

My dear Mrs. Spear,

This is not really a letter. It is just the silent clasp of a hand from one mother to another.

As the mother of Theodore Chase Greene, of Peiping, I have always loved you for the comfort you gave me when we were cruising on the "Adriatic" in the Spring of 1928. You called our far-away, dear children by their first-names, — "Theodore", and "Phoebe". You had been staying in the Mission Compound in the very house where they were to live, and

you told us of the unselfish devotion with which they were working.

Do not forget that you and yours are daily remembered in the hearts of hosts of friends, far and near -

With great sympathy, in which my husband joins, I am

Sincerely yours,

Harriet Chase Greene.

September twenty-third

1934 -

Wm.

GOULD FARM  
GREAT BARRINGTON  
MASSACHUSETTS

Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> 1934

Darling Darling —

In all my life I think my soul has never been so stirred except when my beloved fell in my arms nine years ago.

My love for you is so deep that this is as if my house to be had been stricken as yours has, and I have no words to tell you of



the thoughts that are so  
constantly in my mind for  
you, dear one, for the babe  
and for the wife - I'm  
thinking too of those ones  
dear - You are literally  
in my heart all the time.  
How we all long & do  
someday!

God bless and comfort  
and strengthen you all  
Your devoted ones.

ada  
B

Y. W. C. A.

h. Carolina & Pacific Aves.

Atlantic City - N. J.

Sept. 16. 04

My dear Mrs Speer.

We are simply stunned by the news  
of the tragedy and grieved more than can  
possibly be expressed for your dear self and  
J. Speer.

That an insane boy should be allowed to  
cause Society to lose the blessing of such an  
example of right living as that of your son  
is beyond comprehension. Perhaps Society  
was at fault vis à vis to the boy? Who knows!

You will surely have our heartfelt prayers  
for many days to come.

Affectionately always

Blanche Geary.

With our sincere <sup>620</sup>  
sorrow and condolence.

We will happily

MRS. THOMAS STANTIAL GLADDING.

and blessed days

The Rest. For other years.  
Easton, Md.

OK  
A. J. GAHR  
CLEVELAND

1836 Lorain Rd

Sept 17<sup>th</sup> 1924.

Dear Mr. Speer,

The news of the unexpected passing of your good son brought grief and deep pain to us, also. Mr. Sachs and I sincerely share with you the sorrow over the sudden death of your son. Our hearts go out to you and Mrs. Speer and we are thinking of the widow and the three daughters.

Our good Father in Heaven knows how to overrule the acts of men and He will bring things to pass so they may still work out for our good. We commend you to the loving care of

God who "shall supply every need of  
yours according to his riches in glory  
in Christ Jesus."

Words are so inadequate to express  
to you what our hearts long to tell you,  
but we know you understand.

Cordially yours,  
Martha Bach.

511  
/

1516 N. Los Robles Ave.  
Pasadena, Calif.  
Oct 5<sup>th</sup> 1934

Mrs. Robert E. Speer,  
1516 Fifth Ave.  
New York City. N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Speer,

At a time like  
this words are a very feeble  
vehicle with which to con-  
vey heart emotions.

You have proved a true  
friend to many in time of  
deep sorrow. Your words



brought words of comfort and of  
strength to me. May you, in  
this dark hour, be comforted  
by the God of all comfort. You,  
Mrs Speer and the family are  
carried to the Throne of Grace  
When we are unable to see  
or understand our faith is  
strengthened by the test and  
we cling with full assurance  
to Romans 8:28

Yours in loving Christian  
sympathy  
(Mrs. J. P.) Emily S. Graham

012

# CHRISTIANITY TODAY



||| A PRESBYTERIAN JOURNAL DEVOTED TO STATING, DEFENDING  
AND FURTHERING THE GOSPEL IN THE MODERN WORLD |||

501 WITHERSPOON BUILDING

PHILADELPHIA

Sept. 15, 1934.

Dear Dr. Speer,

I have just heard of the tragic death of your son, and I hasten to send you the sincere and deep sympathy I feel. We may be divided over many things, but I want to say from the bottom of my heart that I pray God's comfort and strength and blessing upon you in this hour of your deep trouble. May our Lord Jesus Christ graciously give you His own sustaining presence. We cannot ask Him now for reasons, but we can ask Him for strength.

With true sympathy to you, to Mrs. Speer and all your family, - only wishing that it were in my power to help, and commending you to the only One who can, I am

Sincerely yours,

H. McA. Griffiths

67  
REV. JOHN CALVIN GODDARD  
BY THE WAY  
SALISBURY, CONNECTICUT

Dr. and Mrs. Robt. E. Speer,  
Lakeville, Conn.

Dear Friends :

We wish you to know that we are all with you in spirit and in sympathy.

We prayed for you in the White Church this morning, and it gave the congregation some measure of relief. We did not ask for vengeance, but for the balm of Gilead and for a touch of the garment's hem *to strengthen hearts*

Nobody seems to know anything of the purpose of the assassin, but we think we know something of the purpose of the One above. It is "Father, I will that they also whom thou hast given me be with me where I am" - He is always wanting by Himself such souls as Elliott's

I do not doubt that he was more needed above, greatly as he was needed here.

I am not competent to cite the Word to you, but write merely to assure you of our sympathy and affection, mine and Mrs. Goddard's.

Wishing you grace, mercy and peace,

I am devotedly yours,

Dated, Sept. 16, '34

*John Calvin Goddard*

Sept. 15, 1934.

My dear Dr. &amp; Mrs. Speer:

We are greatly grieved over the news of the death of your son, and we want to assure you of our sympathy with you in your sorrow.

I do not need to tell you where to find comfort, but we shall ask it for you in our prayers -

Sincerely yours  
C. J. Bates.

57

15 Sept. 1934.  
Sat. Morning.

WAKE ROBIN INN

LAKEVILLE

CONNECTICUT

My Dear Mrs. Speer.

I have been so drawn to you on Wednesday, & again on yesterday, that I am moved to write you a word - at this time - when, really, no stranger should intrude! I am sure that your first thoughts are for your husband, & for the children & grandchildren who are left - and I found my prayer at once, arising for them 'also' - For yourself, is 'love & sympathy & understanding' - and a prayer to Him who was ever so kind to woman - Sincerely - Mary Ellice Gates.



BY DIRECT WIRE FROM

1223S

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter

NM = Night Message

NL = Night Letter

LCO = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Letter

WLT = Week-End Letter

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

NAH160 49 DL 3 EXTRA=UD NEWYORK NY VIA XQ NEWYORK NY SEP 15

DR AND MRS ROBERT E SPIER=  
LAKEVILLE CONN=

WE ARE GREATLY SADDENED BY NEWS OF ELLIOTTS TRAGIC GOING  
THE WORLD NEEDS SO MUCH HIS ABILITY CHARACTER AND VISION  
WE WILL LONG REMEMBER THE INSPIRATION OF HIS FRIENDSHIP  
MAY THE SYMPATHY OF MANY FRIENDS THE LOVE OF DEAR ONES  
AND THE EVERLASTING ANNIS SUSTAIN YOU=  
SIDNEY D GAMBLE.

145P

PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE



BY DIRECT WIRE FROM

1223S

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NAE181 8=NEWHOPE PENN SEP 15 450P

MRS ROBERT E SPEER=

ROCKLEDGE LAKEVILLE CONN=

AM WITH YOU IN CONSTANT THOUGHT AND PRAYER=

LOUISA.

1 514P..

*ack. 6/13/13*

*282*

PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

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# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at 40 Broad Street, (Central Cable Office), New York, N. Y. ALWAYS OPEN 1934 SEP 18 AM 3 09 1

FY2 47 NL CNT COMMA=SANFRANCISCO CALIF 17

DR AND MRS ROBT E SPEER=

PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS NYK=

NEWS OF YOUR UNBELIEVABLE TRAGEDY HAS JUST REACHED ME HOW  
SUCH VIOLENCE COULD COME TO ONE OF YOUR HONORED AND WELL  
LOVED CHILDREN IS INEXPLICABLE I KNOW HOW NOBLY YOU WILL  
MEET BEREAVEMENT BUT MY LOVE AND PRAYERS ARE REACHING OUT  
TO YOU, PRECIOUS FAMILY DEVOTEDLY=

SUNNY.

ack 9/18/34  
act 15

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

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## Received at

GR39 48 DL XC=GREATBARRINGTON MASS SEP 15 925A

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

MRS ROBERT E SPEER=

MOTHERMON SCHOOL NORTHFIELD MASS=

GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR SENDING ME WORD MY WISH WOULD BE TO  
DRIVE OVER AT ONCE BUT THINK YOU MIGHT PREFER TO SEE ME  
LATER OUR HEARTS ARE WHOLLY WITH YOU GOD IS SUSTAINING YOU  
ALL WIRE ME IF I MAY COME OR SERVE IN ANY BETTER WAY=

=AGNES GOULD.

1034A.

*Letter sent  
Oct. 10*